

Botha saves 'Sharpeville Six' from hanging



P.W. Botha: Move dictated by 'realpolitik'

From Michael Hornsby
Johannesburg

The South African President, Mr P. W. Botha, last night reprieved the "Sharpeville Six", the five black men and one black woman controversially sentenced to death for complicity in the mob murder of a black township official, only a matter of hours after the Appeal Court in Bloemfontein had refused to re-open their case.

Mr Botha's unexpected move appeared to have been dictated more by "realpolitik" than by compassion. He balanced the reprieve for the "Sharpeville Six" with clemency for four white policemen convicted of the brutal killing of blacks. He also reprieved three other unknown black men convicted of murder, according to a statement by the Department of Justice.

The international repercussions of allowing the "Sharpeville Six" to go to the gallows was probably also a factor in Mr Botha's decision. If any of the Six had been hanged, there

would have been strong pressure in the EEC and the United States for further economic sanctions against South Africa. The withdrawal at least temporarily of ambassadors here, a reduction in South African diplomatic representation abroad, and the cancellation of South African Airways' landing rights.

Of the "Sharpeville Six", Duma Joshua Khumalo, aged 28, and Francis Don Mokoena, 30, will now serve 25 years in prison, and Reginald Mofalele Sefatsa, 32, will serve 20 years. The other three, Reid Malebo Mokoena, 24, Oupa Moses Diniso, 32, and Theresa Ramashamola, 26, the only woman accused, have had their sentences commuted to 18 years in jail.

Of the policemen, Captain Jack la Grange will serve 25 years, Warrant Officer Leon de Villiers 20 years, Warrant Officer Robert van der Merwe 15 years and Constable David Goosen 15 years. There was much sympathy for the four policemen among right wing whites,

thousands of whom had sent signed petitions to President Botha urging him to show clemency.

De Villiers and Goosen were convicted in May of this year of killing an 18-year-old black youth whom they did not dare leave him alive to testify against them. La Grange and Van der Merwe cold-bloodedly killed two drug dealers.

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an Indian and a (mixed-race) Coloured, allegedly to conceal their own illegal involvement with them.

Earlier yesterday a full five-judge bench of the Appeal Court, headed by Acting Chief Justice P. J. Rabie, found unanimously that neither the Supreme Court nor the Appeal Court had the "inherent jurisdiction" to re-open the "Sharpeville Six" case to allow new evidence to be heard after the accused had already been convicted and their

conviction had been upheld by the Appeal Court. The only recourse left to lawyers representing the Six would have been to submit another plea for clemency to President Botha, who rejected a previous request early this year. Mr Botha would have been asked to reconsider in the light of fresh evidence that a State witness might have falsely implicated at least two of the accused.

Until their reprieve, the Six were among 279 people awaiting execution in Pretoria Central Prison, where hangings are carried out on a multiple-gallows that can execute seven people at a time. Of the 279, up to a third are estimated to have been involved in killings related to political unrest.

The case of the Six had become a test for other blacks held to have shared the "common purpose" of mobs involved in murders of black Government officials in the township turmoil of 1984-86. On September 3, 1984, a crowd, an-

gered by proposed rent increases and other grievances, stoned and burnt to death Mr Jacob Khuzwayo Dlamini, a black councillor, in Sharpeville, 40 miles south of Johannesburg. State witnesses testified that the six accused were more or less active members of the mob but provided no conclusive proof that any one of them actually caused Mr Dlamini's death.

In the case of Theresa Ramashamola, there was no evidence that she did more than shout: "Let's kill him." Others of the accused were found guilty of throwing stones at Mr Dlamini and helping to set him and his house on fire. But several of the accused claimed that they had been elsewhere.

Meanwhile, another black, Paul Seelaba, aged 23, went to the gallows early today for his part in a "common purpose" killing in the Eastern Cape very similar to that for which the "Sharpeville Six" were condemned to hang.

Big pay demands 'must be curbed'

By Richard Ford
and Tim Jones

Employers were yesterday warned by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to curb pay demands - average wage rises are outstripping inflation - or face higher interest rates.

Mr Nigel Lawson's warning to the Confederation of British Industry was a clear indication of increasing ministerial concern that pressure on employers over wages is putting the Government's economic strategy at risk.

In one of the strongest warnings on the need for moderation in the pay round to curb inflation, Mr Lawson told a meeting of the council of the CBI he would not accommodate the inflationary pressure generated by big pay increases.

He said: "I shall not allow the exchange rate to depreciate to bail out British firms who do not keep their costs under control."

"It means, at home, inflationary pressures arising from pay awards have to be neutralised in the only possible way, through higher interest rates."

The most effective way of lowering interest rates was to award lower pay rises, he said. But his outline of the tough government approach to deal with inflationary pressures caused by soaring wage settlements was criticized by CBI leaders, who called on the public sector to set its own house in order first.

Sir Trevor Holdsworth, president of the CBI, said: "The pick-up in the recorded rate of inflation is to a large extent the consequences of decisions which the Government has taken."

Government fears of wage increases destroying its strategy have been fuelled by figures which showed that in the year up to October, average wage rises were running at 9.25 per cent, against last month's inflation figures of 6.4 per cent.

Last week 35,000 Ford workers were awarded an "inflation linked" pay increase of 8.9 per cent which, with consequential rises in overtime and shift payments, could result in wage increases of up to 15 per cent.

The Ford settlement is particularly disturbing for ministers as it is used by other workers as a target figure. Next Monday union leaders representing more than a million workers in the engineering industry are to press for a "substantial" pay rise in a claim which includes a demand for a 35-hour week.

The spiral of increased wages comes in spite of September's warning by Sir Norman Fowler, Secretary of State

Hurd promise of remedy for MI5 'victims'

- New security service legislation will allow the public to complain about surveillance to a legal tribunal
- The Prime Minister will receive an annual report on the service, published with security deletions
- MI5 will be made answerable to Parliament, and must not favour any political party
- The service may break into private or commercial property only with the Home Secretary's express consent

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

For the first time, members of the public who believe they have been prejudiced by MI5 will have a remedy.

Those who believe they have been wrongly bugged, burgled, or had their career prospects blighted by the security service will be allowed to complain to an independent tribunal.

If the tribunal, comprising three to five lawyers, upholds a complaint, it will be em-

powered to order the security service to stop its surveillance. It will also be able to order the payment of compensation and the destruction of records.

Under a new Security Service Bill, introduced in the Commons yesterday, the Home Secretary will also have

Parliament 12
The Epping Forest, Essex, by-election is to be held on December 15 12

to issue warrants whenever the security service wants to break into property in search of information.

Complaints involving such warrants will go to a new, independent commissioner "who holds or has held high judicial office". The commissioner will vet the Home Secretary's use of the warrants and will make an annual report, which will be published with security deletions, to the Prime Minister.

In the Bill, the Government has tried to define for the first time the functions that MI5 may legally perform in the name of national security.

The director general of the service must ensure that it does not inquire into matters that are not its concern, that it does not behave in a way that might favour any political party and that it does not use information to influence anyone's career.

The Bill defines the functions of the security service as "the protection of national security and, in particular, its protection against threats from espionage, terrorism and sabotage, from the activities of agents of foreign powers and from actions intended to overthrow or undermine parliamentary democracy by political, industrial or violent means".

A secondary function is "safeguarding the nation's economic well-being against threats posed by the actions or intentions of persons outside the British islands".

The Bill was welcomed yesterday by MPs of all parties. Mr Roy Hattersley, the shadow Home Secretary, called it "a step in the right direction", but said the Labour Party would continue to press for full parliamentary scrutiny of the service.

The service has effectively operated, until now, beyond

the law, though since 1952 it has been run according to a directive issued by Sir David Maxwell-Fyfe, then Home Secretary.

Mr Douglas Hurd, the present Home Secretary, said yesterday that few people argued about the need for a security service, but in recent years there had been misunderstandings about the arrangements under which it operated and concern that people who wished to complain about security service actions against them had no means to do so.

"This Bill tackles all of these issues," he said. Under the Bill, the Home Secretary will continue to be answerable to Parliament for the work of the service. However, ministers will not answer questions about its day-to-day activities.

In the debate on the Queen's Speech, Mr Hurd rejected calls for parliamentary scrutiny, saying: "Such a piece of parliamentary machinery would either demolish the barrier of secrecy which is essential to the working of the service or try to straddle it, with predictably painful results."

"If the body knew all, it would know it could say little to the rest of Parliament without damaging results. If it knew little, it could say nothing with any conviction."

He said Parliament was being invited to establish the extent of the service's duties and obligations. The Bill was modelled on the Interception of Communications Act, 1985, governing telephone-tapping. Like that Act, it preserved ministerial responsibility.

Official West German sources confirmed reports from Iran that he would discuss the hostages during a visit beginning on Sunday. But they said Iranian suggestions that he would act as a mediator were exaggerated.

While his help would be welcome Britain had made no specific request. Apart from Mr Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, the Islamic Jihad kidnappers are thought to be holding Mr John McCarthy, a British journalist, and Mr Brian Keenan, a teacher with both British and Irish nationality.

Privatized steel price fixed at 125p

MARK PEPPER



Lord Young, flanked by Sir Robert Scholey and Mr Norman Lamont, MP, at the headquarters of Samuel Montague.

Offer 'targets Sidney instead of Sid'

By Carol Ferguson

The Government yesterday put a £2.5 billion price tag on British Steel, offering shares at a bargain 125p each.

In pricing the offer, Lord Young of Grafton, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, is believed to have over-ruled advice that he could successfully have floated the company at 130p or even 135p.

He preferred to go for an assured success than to fine-tune the proceeds to maximize government revenues. The Government is also concerned to woo back private investors whose support will be essen-

APPLICATION FORMS IN TOMORROW'S TIMES

Tomorrow *The Times* publishes a share application form, which will provide the first opportunity to apply for a stake in British Steel. Demand for *The Times* order today to be sure they receive *The Times* tomorrow.

like demand for the shares - is expected to be heavy in view of the keen offer price. Readers should place an order today to be sure they receive *The Times* tomorrow.

The minimum subscription is for 400 shares valued at £500 of which £245 is payable by the application date, December 2.

The minimum subscription is higher than some earlier privatizations. Lord Young said this was designed to make

the issue appeal to "Sidney" - an up-market Sid.

Labour attacked the 125p as undervaluing British Steel by "well over £200 million."

The issue price has been deliberately pitched at the bottom end of expectations to avoid a reputation of the BP flop. At this level, British Steel will yield 8 per cent, making it the highest yielding steel stock in the world.

Of the 2 billion shares on offer, 23 per cent will be offered to the general public and British Steel employees and pensioners.

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Continued on page 24, col 7

ON SATURDAY IN COLOUR



Letters of a legend

- T.E. Lawrence never thought much of letters as an art form, but his own throw a surprising light on his career and enigmatic character.
- In *The Times* on Saturday, you can read them for yourself.

WIN £12,000

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

- Mrs I. Jones, of London SW6, was the sole winner of yesterday's £4,000 daily prize. The Portfolio Accumulator stands at £12,000. Prizes: page 31

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Genscher in Iran talks on Waite

By Andrew McEwen
Diplomatic Correspondent

The fate of Mr Terry Waite and 17 other Western hostages in Beirut will be raised with Iranian leaders at the weekend by Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister.

Official West German sources confirmed reports from Iran that he would discuss the hostages during a visit beginning on Sunday. But they said Iranian suggestions that he would act as a mediator were exaggerated.

While his help would be welcome Britain had made no specific request. Apart from Mr Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, the Islamic Jihad kidnappers are thought to be holding Mr John McCarthy, a British journalist, and Mr Brian Keenan, a teacher with both British and Irish nationality.

Three soldiers die in Azerbaijan riot

From A Correspondent, Moscow

Cracks in Soviet unity gaped open yesterday as mass nationalist demonstrations took place in three neighbouring southern republics and news came of the deaths of three soldiers in a renewed outbreak of ethnic violence in Azerbaijan.

A crowd of 800,000 took to the streets of Baku, the Azerbaijani capital, yesterday to renew demands that Moscow should not yield to Armenian claims on the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Yesterday's rally - the largest since the mainly Muslim Azerbaijanis began demonstrating last week - came after three soldiers were killed and 136 people injured on Tuesday when troops were called in to quell riots in regions with an Armenian minority. The casualties were both Armenian and Azerbaijani.

In Yerevan, the capital of

One of these knives is a piece of the finest Sheffield made silver plated cutlery you can buy - the other one is a cheap look alike. One of them is made from the finest materials, individually polished and personally guaranteed for up to 50 years - the other one isn't. One of them will last the test of time and could become a family heirloom - the other one won't. One of them can only be found in some of Britain's finest stores - the other one, well?

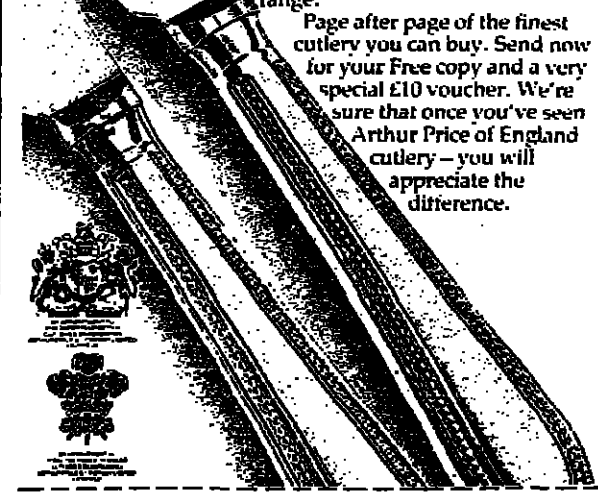
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NEWS ROUNDUP

Suspensions after taunts at Tebbit

Six students at the Polytechnic of North London have been suspended after last week's demonstration in which Mr Norman Tebbit was abused and spat upon, the college announced yesterday. Two other people, not students, have been banned from the polytechnic's premises indefinitely. The polytechnic said that if students were found guilty of a breach of regulations they could be expelled.

Demonstrators hurled insults and taunted Mr Tebbit, the Conservative MP for Chingford, as he tried to address a meeting on the Government's education policies last Wednesday.

Some eyewitnesses claimed that Mr Tebbit, the former Conservative Party chairman, was taunted about the IRA bombing of the Grand Hotel in Brighton during the 1984 Tory Party conference, in which he was seriously injured and his wife Margaret was paralysed.

Yesterday Mr Tebbit said he was "encouraged" that the polytechnic had taken action to "uphold free speech."

Police face charges

Five police officers are to face assault charges after the arrest of a motorist which was filmed by a passing cameraman and later shown on national television. Two were suspended from duty after the incident in the village of Brynau, Anglesey, North Wales, on August 31, and an official statement said three more had been similarly treated pending the case. They will appear at Holyhead Magistrates' Court, Anglesey, on December 13. The action comes after internal investigation findings were reported to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Black jail ratio grows

The proportion of black males in jail increased from 12.5 per cent in 1985 to 14.5 per cent this year, Mr Trevor Hall, race relations consultant to the Home Office, said yesterday. The proportion of black women grew even faster. Mr Hall told a Prison Reform Trust meeting that the proportion of prisoners from the Indian sub-continent was less than 3 per cent, but would rise as populations grew. Minority ethnic groups were also a large proportion of crime victims, he said. The Commission for Racial Equality says about 3.5 per cent of the UK population is Afro-Caribbean or Asian.

Police check on MEP

Mr Leslie Huckfield, aged 46, Labour European MP for Merseyside East, is the subject of an inquiry by fraud squad detectives. The inquiry stretches from his home in Wigan, Greater Manchester, to the EEC headquarters in Brussels. An inquiry is also being held into his constituency's "Euro-Account", which police say is a separate matter running alongside the inquiry into Mr Huckfield.

Boy in death crash

An elderly couple died yesterday on an icy road near Slough, Berkshire, when their car was in collision with a four-wheel drive vehicle driven by a boy aged 16 while his parents were on holiday abroad. The couple were named as Mr Roy Settaure, aged 68, and his wife, Catherine, aged 65, of Datchet, Berkshire. The boy driver, from Slough, and his friend were later interviewed by police. In other accidents, a motorist was killed near Tidworth, Hampshire, another died at Esher, Surrey.

England's comeback

After defeats against the USSR and India, England have staged a comeback in the world chess Olympics at Salonika in Northern Greece, defeating Switzerland 3½-½ in round eight and beating the highly rated Swedes 3-1 in round nine. Individual results in the England-Sweden match were: Nigel Short (playing black) beat Ulf Andersson; Jon Speelman beat Harry Sussler; John Nunn drew with Tom Wedberg; Murray Chandler drew with Ferdinand Hellers. England are now lying in second place, with five rounds to go.

Security men list the IRA's re-offenders

By Jamie Dettmer
Irish Affairs Correspondent

Two of the eight IRA men killed by the SAS at Loughgall last year served prison sentences for terrorist offences and were granted an early release from jail, it emerged yesterday.

James Lynagh, who commanded the IRA unit in an attack on Loughgall police station, and Gerard O'Callaghan, one of his operatives, both benefited from the 50 per cent remission system in Northern Ireland.

After early release, they both returned immediately to the IRA's "frontline" forces.

Security sources last night welcomed the Government's move to toughen remission laws in the province, announced on Tuesday after the Queen's Speech at the opening of Parliament.

"Any more time we can keep the likes of Lynagh in prison would be helpful", one security official said.

Until his death, Lynagh was considered one of the IRA's top men on the Tyrone-Monaghan border.

The inquest into the deaths of three unarmed IRA men shot by police six years ago, which was adjourned while a High Court application was being made challenging the coroner's handling of the hearing, is to resume on Monday. Earlier this week a High Court judge rejected an

application for a judicial review made by lawyers acting for the widow of Gervaise McKerr, one of the IRA men. Mr Justice Carswell rejected their plea that he overturn the coroner's decision to allow the officers involved in the shootings to submit sworn statements.

He commanded its forces there, replacing Seamus McIlwaine, the Maze prison escapee. He was sentenced to 10 years' jail in Belfast in 1974 for possessing a bomb; caught because the device exploded in his lap. Five years later he was released and in 1980 he appeared in Dublin's Special Criminal Court charged with murdering a former Ulster Defence Regiment soldier. He was acquitted.

In 1982, he was arrested in the Republic carrying 12 rounds of ammunition and was sentenced to five years' imprisonment. He was released after four and immediately resumed his terrorist activities. Lynagh, an elected Sinn Féin councillor in Monaghan, spent more than 10 of his last 15 years in jail. O'Callaghan, aged 28 in 1987,

served two years of a six-year prison sentence for possession of firearms. He also went back into active service immediately after his release and was suspected by the RUC of being involved in the murder of a policeman at Blackwater, Co. Armagh, in 1985, and the killing of a UDR soldier at Eglis in October 1986.

Daniel McCann and Mairead Farrell, two of the three terrorists shot by the SAS in Gibraltar, were among the most infamous re-offenders. McCann was imprisoned for possession of an explosive substance in 1979. He was released in January 1988 and took part in the bombing mission in Gibraltar just two months later.

Farrell was sentenced to 14 years' jail in 1976 for her part in the bombing of the Conway Hotel in Belfast. She served 10 years.

Security sources dispute the argument put forward by Labour MPs and nationalist politicians that the McCanns and Lynagh are exceptions. They say that although only 20 per cent of those imprisoned for terrorist offences are re-convicted on further terrorist charges, many more resume their IRA activities but are not caught.

Army sources say 30 per cent of terrorists who serve sentences go back to "frontline bombing and shooting work", while large numbers fulfil training and supportive roles.

Prison did not deter James Dillon, Aidan Grew and Terence McKenna. Dillon was sentenced in 1974 to a total of 36 years for offences including causing explosions, possession of firearms, and robbery. The sentences ran concurrently and he was released in 1979.

In 1982, he was found guilty of two murders, two attempted murders and other offences. Grew served seven years for robbery and possession in the Republic - his full sentence was 11 years. He was convicted of a fresh terrorist offence in Belfast in 1986.

Other re-offenders include Patrick McCracken, aged 32, jailed for 11 years in 1978, released in 1985, and shot dead by the Army while on a mission earlier this year; John Devine, aged 24, sentenced to five years for causing an explosion, released after only 11 months, and re-arrested and sentenced to 18 years last year for possession of explosives; and Denis McClean, aged 41, sentenced in 1976 to 12 years for firearms and explosive offences, released in 1982 and convicted for murder earlier this year.

Last night, a security source said: "Even if half don't re-offend, why should we allow the others to go out early so that they can commit more murders?"

Hundreds die because of flawed service

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The lives of hundreds of accident victims were lost every year because of flaws in Britain's emergency services, the Royal College of Surgeons said in a report published yesterday.

It said up to 30 per cent of seriously injured patients who died in hospital did so from "potentially treatable causes".

The surgeons called for a big shake-up in accident and emergency services, including the establishment of specialised trauma centres, the use of helicopters to move seriously injured patients quickly to hospital, and the closure of many small and inadequately staffed casualty units.

The report said it was ironic that air transport was frequently used to move the organs of dead accident victims for transplantation, but was not readily available for survivors.

About 14,500 people die from accidents every year in Britain and 545,000 receive hospital treatment.

"Even when the current epidemic of Aids is taken into account, accidental injury is probably the most serious of all the major health problems facing mankind in the developed countries", the report said. A study commissioned by the working party which

produced the report showed that 170 of 1,000 deaths from injury in England and Wales were potentially treatable.

"There are serious deficiencies in the management of severely injured patients and these must be remedied", the report said. "Experience suggests that more injured patients die from preventable causes while in hospital than before they reach it."

A system was required where surgeons and anaesthetists were more available to perform life-saving operations.

Patients with injuries beyond the capabilities of a district general hospital should be transferred to a regional trauma centre, the report said. Smaller casualty departments which could not provide the optimum treatment should be closed.

Mr David Mellor, Minister of Health, welcomed the report and said he would study its recommendations with health authorities and the medical professions.

The British Medical Association said it shared the concern and admitted that casualty departments no longer provided the "wonderful" service they used to.

Award for 'editors of the future'



David Dimbleby with (front) Lynn McKechie, Joanne Scott and Stuart Hendry of Ochiltree Primary School, and Joanne Pitt and Andrew Symons, of Mortimer Wilson School

By David Tytler

Young newspaper tycoons were rewarded yesterday when Mr David Dimbleby, the broadcaster, presented the prizes to the winners in the Newspaper Day competition organized by The Times Network Service and sponsored by Tandem Computers (UK).

The two main prizes in the primary school section went to Ochiltree school, Ayrshire, which produced the 24-page Ochiltree Reporter. The secondary school prize went to the Mortimer Wilson School, Derby, for its tabloid newspaper Freelance.

Mr Dimbleby told the winners: "The papers are fascinating and beautifully put together. You should take pride and

comfort in your achievements."

The competitors took part in one of two newspaper days organized by TTNS in September.

Ochiltree was represented at yesterday's award ceremony at the Science Museum in London by Mairi Gemmell, Stuart Hendry, Joanne Scott, and Lynn McKechie, with Mr Allan McWilliam, their head teacher. They also won the primary Technology in Action prize.

Mortimer Wilson School was represented by Joanne Pitt, Andrew Symons, Darren Guest, Joanne Lewis and Mr John Hazell, a teacher.

The full list of prize-winners is: Primary: First, Ochiltree Primary School, Ochiltree, Ayrshire; Tandem personal computer; second, Middleton

Junior School, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, £150; third, Wellfield School, Sale, Greater Manchester, £50; best first entry, Milepost School, Pontypridd, South Wales, book tokens; Technology in Action prize, Ochiltree School, £100.

Secondary: First, Mortimer Wilson School, Derby; Tandem personal computer; second, Kings School, Worcester, £150; third, Brethun Woods School, Peterborough, £50; best first entry, Spondon School, Derby; The Times Concise Atlas of World History; Technology in Action prize, Lockdown School, Bristol, £100. The international prize was won by the Kangaroo Courier, produced by Sadadeen Second College, in Alice Springs, Australia.

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Equality in divorce works both ways, says woman judge

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The most senior woman judge took up a sex equality stance yesterday on the part of men who seek a divorce pay-off from their wives.

Lord Justice Butler-Sloss said she found it depressing "in these days of so-called equality", that it was not fully understood that equality worked both ways in divorce.

She said: "Men have rights to claim against women, as women have rights to claim against men."

Her comments in the Court of Appeal, London, came at the start of a new legal challenge to a High Court Family Division ruling in 1986 that Mr John Brown, Conservative MP for Wiltshire, was entitled to a £175,000 end-of-marriage pay-off from his former wife, Elizabeth.

Mrs Browne is seeking leave to challenge the redistribution of matrimonial assets order and other orders under which she faces the threat of prison for non-compliance.

The Equal Opportunities Commission, commenting on the judge's remarks, said it was "far more often the case that when a marriage is breaking up, a wife is at a disadvantage in the employment market, either because she has

children, or lost her place in the job market already. However, when circumstances are genuinely reversed, so far as we know, the law allows for the man to be paid by the woman and in genuine cases we have no objection to this."

The Solicitors' Family Law Association endorsed the judge's remarks. Mrs Diana Parker, secretary, said: "The law regarding financial provision on divorce does not distinguish between men and women."

The case comes at a time of increasing applications by men. Mrs Parker said she thought this was because of greater equality. "This is reflected in the fact that it is not always the women who are dependent on the husband and sometimes it is the wife who goes out to work."

However, a number of family law practitioners believe that, in practice, it remains harder to bring an application for a man in a divorce case. The width of guidelines within which judges may make apparently fair orders allows for prejudice against men.

Mr Michael Connell, QC, for Mrs Browne, is also challenging the Family Division ruling on the ground that it wrongly put pressure on

Mrs Browne's trustees to use money from family trust funds to meet the award.

Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, who was sitting with Lord Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, and Lord Justice Neill, said she was concerned about misunderstanding of the case resulting from publicity it had received.

She said: "It is important to put this misconception to rest. There has been the impression that this is a man trying to live off a rich wife and get maintenance from her, whereas this was a husband trying to get a re-distribution of assets on the break-down of marriage."

The marriage ended in an uncontested divorce action in 1984 on the ground of his admitted adultery. Mr Brown, aged 49, has since remarried. His second wife, Elaine, aged 42, is an American millionaire.

Mrs Browne, aged 46, who sold her £300,000 mews home in Belgrave, central London, to help to meet the court order, lives with Mr Ernest Jowett, 52, a City lawyer. She said he was providing financial backing for the appeal hearing.

The hearing continues today.

Radiation overdose

Cancer patient's death was hastened by hospital error

By Howard Foster

The death of a woman cancer patient was "accelerated" by a mistake in her hospital treatment that exposed her to 25 per cent more radiation than she had been prescribed, a coroner's court was told yesterday.

Mrs Marjorie Brimblecombe, aged 47, died two months after receiving the overdose at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital while being treated for cancer of the throat. Mr Hamish Turner, the South Devon coroner, yesterday recorded a verdict of misadventure aggravated by lack of care.

The verdict is seen as a significant step forward for more than 60 of the 153 patients who received similar overdoses at the hospital between February and July this year and are seeking compensation.

sation from Exeter Health Authority. They fear they may have suffered long-term damage.

After a second error when another patient was given a radiation overdose, Mr Stewart Cook, a physicist, and Mr Scott Bowring, the head of the medical physics department, were dismissed.

It emerged yesterday that Exeter Health Authority has admitted a breach of duty of care to the patients. That, too, is seen by solicitors as a ground for claims against the authority.

The inquest at Torquay was told that Mrs Brimblecombe's life might have been saved if she had not refused treatment for complications which set in after the first hospitalisation.

Mrs Brimblecombe, of Bovey Tracey, Devon, had

never recovered from the shock of hearing of the overdose on television news. Her throat cancer was cured by the 20-day radon-therapy course which ended in June this year. However, she was taken ill 11 days later with complications.

She died after refusing food and medication, saying she wanted to die.

Dr Andrew Adams, a pathologist, said Mrs Brimblecombe's death was caused by bronchial pneumonia due to malnutrition and radiation. He said: "In as much as the radiation dosage was greater than intended that error must be considered to have contributed to or accelerated her death."

Mr Christopher Over, the solicitor co-ordinating claims said he was hoping for an out-of-court settlement.

Peddalling for Britain

PETER TRIVINOR



Mr Denis Thatcher trying out a British-made Raleigh Wolf Cub bicycle yesterday when Halfords, the cycles and car parts shop chain, launched a "Better Made in Britain" campaign. Halfords, of which Mr Thatcher is a non-executive director, wants manufacturers to supply more home-produced goods and aims to sell 90 per cent British by 1992.

Annual report lists failings

BBC governors attack 'Airbase'

By Andrew Billen, Arts Correspondent

The BBC "took no great pride" in the controversial television play, *Airbase*, about drug abuse among American servicemen in Britain, according to its annual report, published yesterday, in which the corporation listed several failings.

A *Radio Times* article that accompanied the screening of the play was "inappropriate", the corporation said, in promising that in becoming more accountable to its customers it was becoming more self-critical and analytical.

In his introduction, Mr Marmaduke Hussey, the BBC chairman, said: "We will admit our mistakes when we make them. You cannot put our 15,000 hours of television and 200,000 hours of radio a year without the occasional mistake."

Two polls taken during the general election campaign last year are also criticized in the review of news coverage. They were "inaccurate beyond the normal margins of error and were therefore damaging to the reputation of the programmes", the review said.

It said *Radio Three* had not been as effective in promoting itself as it should have been. The bi-weekly *Radio 4* drama series, *Citizens*, had found it difficult to establish a follow-

ing. Audiences for local radio in London, Manchester and the West Midlands were all "disappointing".

The report pledges the BBC to include a special full-colour, 20-page insert in *Radio Times* and *The Listener* reviewing the BBC's activities and to broadcasting a television programme in January on its record this year.

The report said Mr Hussey's pay had risen by £8,048 to £35,340. The increase was achieved by cutting the total for other governors, apart from the vice chairman and national governors of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, from £29,359 to £21,164.

In a bullish survey, the BBC claimed to have radically increased its efficiency and to be ready to exploit the new broadcasting environment.

Mr Michael Checkland, director-general, said the BBC had restructured and become more efficient, allowing £30 million to be shifted from support areas into programme making. "Good housekeeping is possible in broadcasting," the BBC steps into the new market place well prepared.

He said new stations would provide a new market for the BBC while the competition would help restrain costs.

US television 'better'

Television in the United States is in many key respects superior to that in Britain, according to a report published by the Institute of Economic Affairs.

In the report Mr Raymond Gallagher, a US television consultant, accuses British broadcasters of painting a false picture of US television as "wall-to-wall *Dallas*". In fact, British television is comparatively weak on local news, public affairs and programmes for cultural and ethnic minorities, he says.

Most British critics object to US television simply because it is too American, he adds. Claims that many cable programmes are repeats ignore the fact that most news and information channel broadcasts are live.

He also says American television's market structure serves a free society better than a highly-regulated system such as Britain's.

"It is hard to envisage a Watersgate or Irangate being pursued with such vigour by television in Britain."

New evidence to be allowed in Carl murder appeal case

By Michael Horswell

A new defence witness is to be called for one of three men convicted of murdering Carl Bridgewater, a newspaper delivery boy.

Miss Tracey Humphreys, who was aged 11 when the boy was shot dead at Yew Tree Farm in the West Midlands in 1978, is to give evidence for James Robinson, aged 54. She is the daughter of Mrs Carl Bradbury, Robinson's girlfriend at the time.

The Court of Appeal decided yesterday to grant permission for Miss Humphreys to give evidence, in spite of strong opposition by Mr Jeremy Roberts QC, for the prosecution.

Mr Roberts said she could have been called by the defence at Stafford Crown Court during Robinson's trial in 1979. However, defence counsel had decided against doing so.

Robinson and Vincent Hickey, aged 34, are serving life sentences of a minimum 25 years for murder and aggravated burglary. Michael Hickey, a cousin of Vincent, aged 26, was ordered to be detained at Her Majesty's pleasure and is in Park Lane mental hospital in Liverpool.

Crown lawyers told the court

yesterday: "It is our case that these men were rightly convicted."

However, the three say they are victims of a miscarriage of justice. Their appeals against conviction were rejected two years after the trial. Three police inquiries followed before Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, referred the case back to the Court of Appeal.

The case continues today.

Actor tells of threats from IRA

Richard Harris, the actor, told the High Court yesterday he has spent three years "ducking bombs from the IRA".

"Someone has to make a stand against the IRA," he said. "The killing must stop. I've had six threats on my life so far this year and now they will start again because of what I am saying." He said he received threats after the *Daily Mirror* published an article in which he condemned the IRA.

Mr Harris was being cross-examined by Mr Richard Hartley, QC, for *The Star*. Mr Harris is suing Express Newspapers and Mr Neil Mackwood, *The Star's* former diary editor, over an article in September last year. They deny libel and contend the article was true.

Mr Harris says it was based on an off-the-record conversation with Mr John McEntee, the Irish journalist, about the heroin addiction of his son Jamie, aged 25.

Mr Hartley suggested that the impression Mr Harris was giving, as someone who did not talk to journalists about his private life, was wrong.

Mr Harris said: "I've conceded that I have spoken about my private life, but I will not discuss my son's agony." Earlier he said he could not remember giving Miss Elizabeth Phillips from *The Star* an interview, but he agreed he might have done and might have told her that Jamie had made "Herculean efforts" to recover. The hearing continues today.

Taxidermy claimed as 'a form of conservation'

Stuffed eagle costs £900 fine

By Patrick O'Hanlon

A taxidermist and former fellow of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, who said taxidermy was a form of conservation, was rebuked by a magistrate yesterday.

Mr (Malcolm) Kenny Everett, aged 41, owner of Two Hoops Taxidermy at Truro, Cornwall, was fined £900 with £160 costs for keeping wild stuffed birds, including a golden eagle, and two eggs. He was banned for five years from keeping stuffed wild birds.

Bonham's, the Chelsea auctioneers, which put the eagle up for sale, was fined £400 with £800 costs and banned from selling wild birds for five years in a private prosecution brought by the RSPB.

The society said the case would serve as a warning to "unscrupulous people". Mr Andrew Jones, RSPB inspector, said: "The trade is widespread and not well documented."

ted. We won't hesitate to prosecute rogues who exploit wild birds for financial gain."

Mr Everett, who arrived at Wells Street Magistrates' Court, central London, with a live barn owl on his shoulder, told the court he bought the eagle from Mr James Whitaker, a Leeds bookseller. He was told it died flying into power lines in Derbyshire.

Mr Everett said: "I consider taxidermy as a means of conservation." Miss Audrey Jennings, the magistrate, said: "You had better stop. I don't agree with you."

Mr Whitaker, whose wife had named the stuffed eagle Eric, swapped him for a four-volume set of *The British Bird Book* with Mr Robert Law, gamekeeper at Chatsworth Park, the Duke of Devonshire's seat at Derbyshire.

Mr Law said he found the eagle in heather when on

holiday on North Uist in 1983. "I've no idea how it came to grief," he said. He took it home and put it in his freezer before having it stuffed. "I don't suppose it crossed my mind to report it. Besides, it wouldn't have done the bird any good."

Mr Law gave it to Mr Donald Hopkins, a taxidermist. In a statement read to the court, Mr Hopkins said he had noticed a wound under the left wing. "It might have been shot", he said.

The court was told RSPB inspectors who visited Bonham's had found the stuffed eagle, a late entry, not in the catalogue nor displaying a proper label. Mr Paul Whitfield, deputy chairman of Bonham's, said: "It was a technical offence, and we sank or swam with Mr Everett."

The bird will now be displayed at Truro Museum.

Piper families may sue in America

By Kerry Gill

Survivors and families of victims of the Piper Alpha disaster represented by the Manufacturing, Science and Finance trade union are expected to fight for enhanced compensation through United States courts, it emerged yesterday.

The consortium looking after the interests of 30 families and 10 survivors has been advised by US lawyers that the sums offered by Occidental to

the main group are between a third and half of what could be obtained in Texas, where some widows could obtain up to £3 million.

The smaller Cleveland group representing about a dozen families is also considering action in the US.

Occidental and lawyers representing 136 families agreed on a compensation package worth about £100 million on Tuesday night.

Mr Roger Lyons, MSF assistant general secretary, said by the time actions were raised in Texas, third parties might also be liable, which could mean bigger settlements.

The agreement reached on Tuesday is being recommended for acceptance to the individual solicitors representing survivors and families.

About 125 lawyers are to meet in Aberdeen at the beginning of next month.

Freighter crash closes railway bridge

By Andrew Morgan

British Rail closed a line on Humber-side yesterday after a Swedish freighter smashed into a railway bridge spanning the Ouse. Commuters fear the closure may be permanent.

The MV *Samsø*, en route to Howden, struck the Goolle swing bridge early yesterday morning, badly damaging a fixed horizontal section and two railway tracks. Its cargo of timber was offloaded as the tide fell and it was beached on mud flats. Tugs stood by to pull it clear when the water rose.

British Rail wanted to close the line four years ago, but refurbished it at a cost of £2 million at the request of local councils. The councils contributed £1.2 million towards repair costs.


Mr Don Rose, chairman of the Humber-side Planning and Transport Committee, said last night that he feared British Rail would use freighter collisions as an excuse to close the line for good. "I spoke to BR officials earlier this week about the future of services in Humber-side and they did not give any long-term

assurances about the line. This incident could give them an argument to close it", he said.

The damaged bridge will affect all commuters between Hull and Doncaster and those on the InterCity route to London. Bus services will be provided.

British Rail said yesterday it was "far too early" to say whether the collision would precipitate the bridge's permanent closure.

"All we can say is that the damage is severe", a spokesman said.



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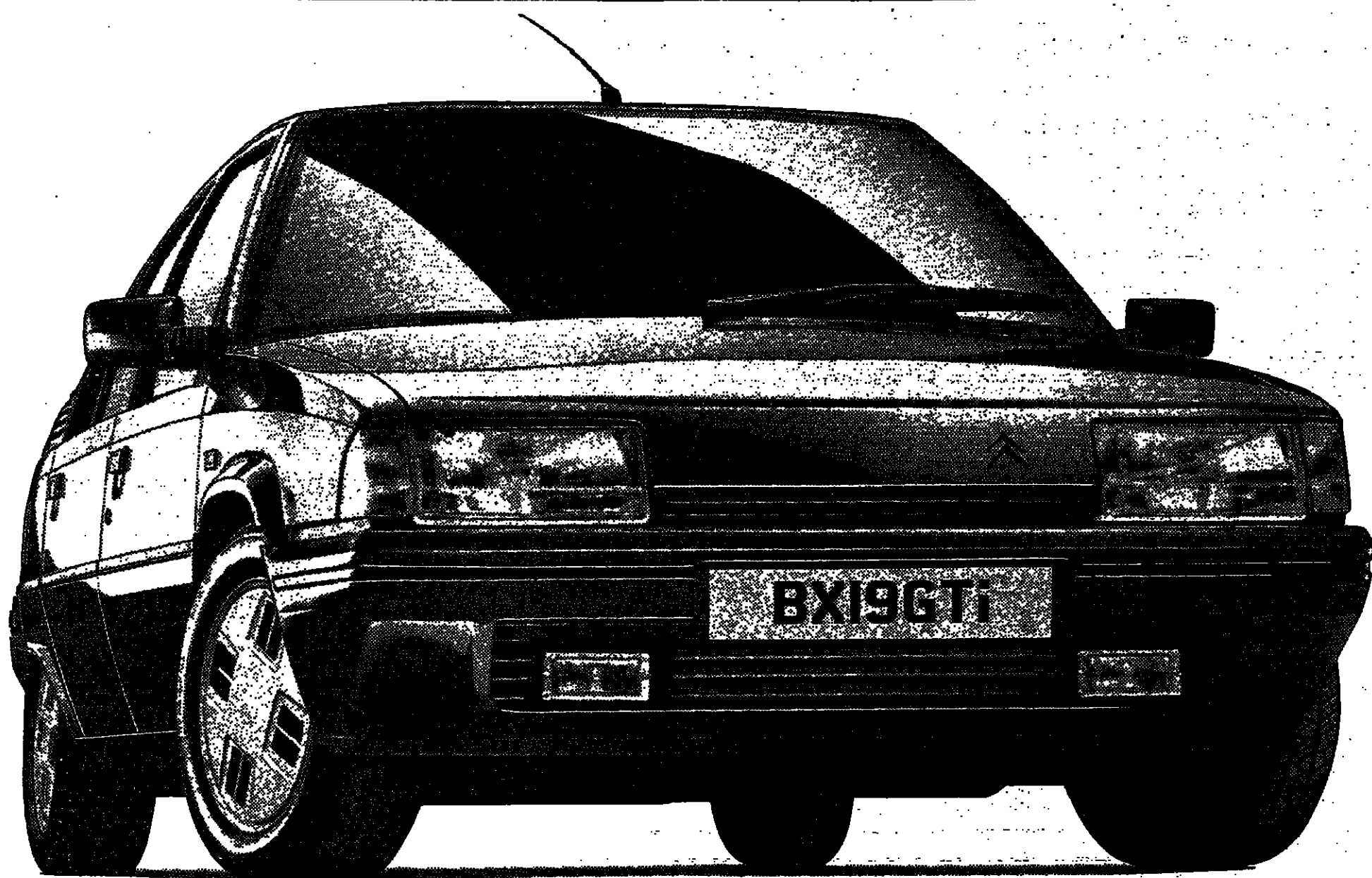
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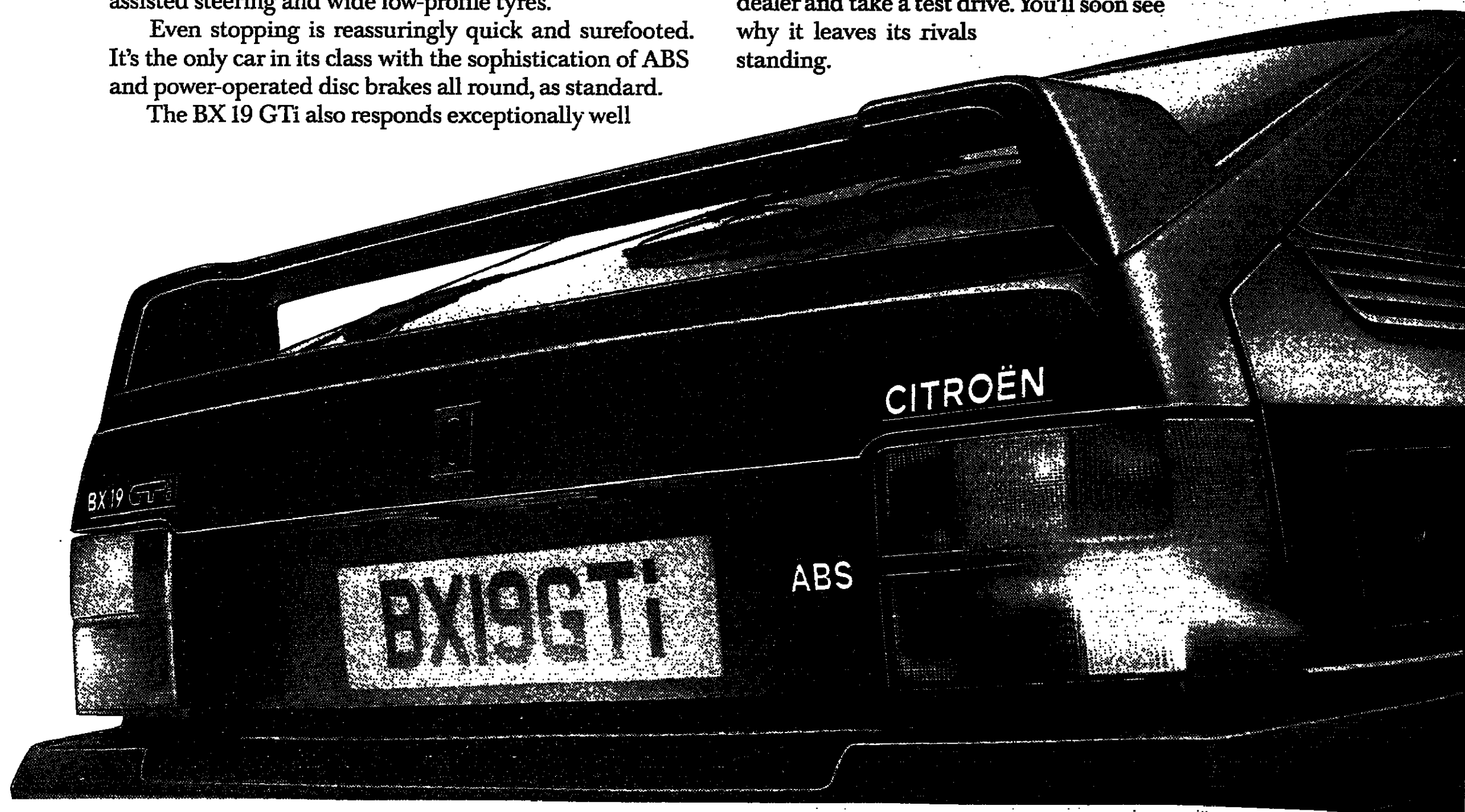
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Beatles' Mercedes

Singer wins battle

Concern grows over pollution of environment

Tough measures to control shipments of hazardous waste

Tougher measures to control the import of hazardous wastes for incineration and disposal were announced yesterday by Lord Caithness, Minister for Housing, Environment and Countryside.

He told the National Association of Waste Disposal Contractors that that was one of a number of key Government statements on environmental issues to be made before Christmas.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, announced later the launch of an international campaign to get countries with big populations, such as China, India and the Soviet Union, to join the 12 Western industrialized countries in phasing out chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) which destroy the ozone layer.

CFCs are used in aerosols, refrigerators, plastic-foam manufacture and fire-fighting appliances. Mr Ridley said the phasing out of CFCs was the easiest and quickest way of tackling the threat to the

world's climate from the greenhouse effect.

CFC compounds are 10,000 times more powerful than any of the other gases discharged by industry, such as carbon dioxide from power stations, which also contribute to the "greenhouse" problem.

However, if a country such as China or India was to become a big user of CFCs, it could outweigh singlehandedly an agreement to cut the use of the compounds signed by the main producing countries in Montreal last year.

Mr Ridley said: "The Prime Minister and I propose to call a major international conference on the protection of the ozone layer early next year. It will be in London in March. The Prime Minister will participate. It will be held in association with the United Nations Environment Programme under whose auspices the Montreal Protocol was successfully developed."

Mr Ridley said he would take the invitation with him to China next month. All other countries were being invited.

The meeting would demonstrate effective substitutes for CFCs, enabling all countries to reduce quickly the use of the compounds.

The Montreal Protocol calls for a 50 per cent cut in their use by the end of next year. Mr Ridley said: "The Government is calling for a worldwide reduction of at least 85 per cent as soon as possible."

Lord Caithness said international trade in waste could be economically desirable, provided that it was properly controlled and monitored. The Government believed international trade should be restricted to wastes sent directly to specialist treatment plants or incinerators. Shipments of waste for direct disposal in landfill sites should be exceptional and permitted only with the agreement of the importing country.

Demands were made yesterday for an inquiry into the resignation of Mr Rod Perriam, chief of the Department of the Environment's pollution inspectorate, because of staff and funding shortages.

Gas levels threaten plant life

By John Young
Agriculture Correspondent

Rising nitrogen levels in the atmosphere could threaten some plant species with extinction, the Nature Conservancy Council said yesterday.

Dr Sarah Woodin, the council's chief air pollution scientist, said the implications for conservation were worrying on three counts.

First, nitrogen oxides reacted with other gases to form ozone, damaging plant tissues. Second, they were becoming an increasingly important component of acid rain. Third, they contributed to nitrogen enrichment.

"Reports from other European countries have linked changes in natural vegetation to an excessive input of nitrogen from the atmosphere," she said.

Technologies were available to decrease nitrogen oxide emissions substantially, but they were not used widely in Britain.

Presenting the council's annual report, Mr William Wilkinson, the chairman, said funding was also a cause of great anxiety.

"One often has the feeling that problems are mounting more quickly than solutions for them are found," he said.

Hailsham touch for first pint

NICK ROGERS



Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the former Lord Chancellor, raising the first pint yesterday at the public house that bears his name. Lord Hailsham, aged 81, MP for St Marylebone from 1963 until 1970, was opening the Quintin Hogg in Crawford Street, Marylebone, central London. The pub, which used to be called the Olive Branch, has had a refit costing £250,000 and the new decoration includes a mirror with the images of a policeman and a judge over the bar.

Threat to soil may raise cost of water

By Pearce Wright

Nitrate pollution of water supplies would continue to increase for 15 to 20 years even if the use of fertilizers was halted immediately, a meeting of water industry specialists was told yesterday.

The scale of the contamination was described in a paper to a conference of the Royal Society of Chemistry, giving preliminary results of research into methods of removing and protecting ground waters, which provide more than a third of drinking supplies.

The findings could increase the cost of developing new water treatment processes and anti-pollution measures, which should be the subject of the Bill to be published today on the privatization of the water industry.

The survey by the Severn Trent Water Authority showed nitrate levels in more than 60 boreholes, providing 2 per cent of the region's water, were above the EEC maximum permitted safety level of 50 milligrams per litre.

Mr Robert Harris, of Severn Trent, said more than 10 per cent of supplies would be over the safety limit in 20 years unless urgent action was taken.

A treatment plant to remove the nitrate in the Severn Trent region would cost about £40 million. He said the problems were more acute in some

other areas. Mr Harris said the nitrates remained locked in the soil about 30 to 40 metres below surfaces of woodland and long-term pasture and were released when the land was disturbed by ploughing.

Nitrate levels had risen most sharply in places where arable farmers used five times as much fertilizer as they did 30 years ago. The problem was worse in eastern regions with the lowest rainfall and the most intensive arable farming.

Mr Harris said there was not enough rain water to dilute the high concentration of nitrates. In some places, levels were rising by 1.5 milligrams per litre a year.

He proposed improved farming practices and the adoption of statutory protection zones. He said he recognized the measures shifted the cost of curing the nitrate threat from the water industry to agriculture. The measures would mean less use of fertilizer and careful timing of its application. Grassland would remain unploughed. There would be greater development of organic farming.

Dr David Forman, of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund unit at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, told the meeting the threat of cancer from present levels of nitrate in Britain was low.

Day for unknowns of auction world

A record for a painting sold in Scandinavia was achieved when a work entitled "The Dying Dandy", by Nils Dardel, went to a private collector for 13 million Swedish kr. (about £1.2 million) at Bukowskis in Stockholm, Sweden.

When it was bought in 1984 by Mr Frederick Roos, the young Swedish collector who resold it this week, it fetched 3.25 million kr (£299,000) — at that time also a record as the most expensive painting sold in Scandinavia.

Yesterday was a day of records for relative unknowns in the auction world. A portrait by a Glaswegian optician who was an amateur painter in his spare time, fetched £102,300 at Christie's in Edinburgh, to the amazement of the auctioneers. It was "Man with a Tobacco Pouch" painted in 1902 by John Quinton Pringle (1864-1925).

"He always used to paint very detailed miniatures", Miss Jacqueline Lacey of Christie's said. "This full-scale portrait is by far the most

important painting by him to come up for years." The painting, which shows an elderly man nicknamed Kruger who frequented Glasgow's Saltmarket, was bought by a private Scottish collector.

One of two paintings by John Singer Sargent, the American artist, sold for £418,000 at Sotheby's in London, but the other was bought in for £370,000.

Before the sale, experts had great hopes for the portrait of Countess Clara Aldringen, wife of an Austro-Hungarian diplomat, revelling in its "combination of grandeur with spontaneity, allied to a dazzling, inimitable technique" and saying it had led to Sargent being acclaimed in England as the greatest portraitist since Sir Thomas Lawrence. That was the one which failed to sell.

Singer wins battle for Beatles' Mercedes

Mary Wilson, the Supremes singer, yesterday won back a £200,000 Mercedes once owned by John Lennon and George Harrison.

A High Court judge awarded the singer the legal rights to the car which she bought in 1975 from George Harrison.

An earlier hearing was told that in 1979 she took it to a Hampshire garage for some work but left it there while sorting out "cash flow" problems. In 1982, the garage sold it without her knowledge for £2,000. Miss Wilson next saw the car on the front page of

The Times in 1985 when Mr Nicholas Miranda, an American car dealer, flew it into Britain for a Sotheby's sale. He had bought it from a dealer in Germany for about £53,000 in 1984.

Mr Justice Potter said yesterday that although Mr Miranda had shown "every propriety" he had not proved he bought it in "good faith" under the strict German law as he should have seen the documents before finalizing the deal, but had not. He was ordered to pay the costs of the hearing.

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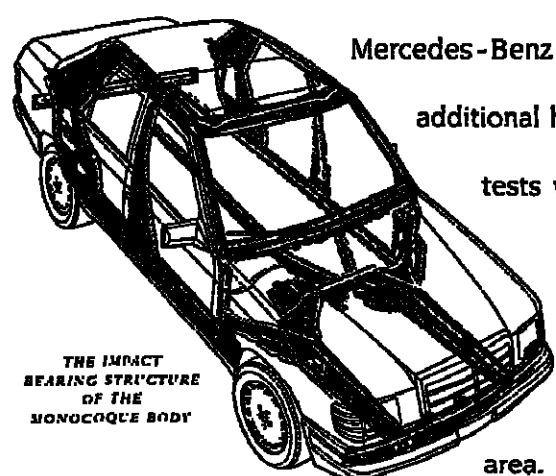
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THE IMPACT BEARING STRUCTURE OF THE MONOCOQUE BODY

Although government legislation requires all car manufacturers to test for 100% head-on collision, Mercedes-Benz also carry out additional head-on collision tests when the impact is concentrated on 40% of the car's frontal area. In Germany for example, research has shown this accident happens three times more frequently than 100% head-on collisions. As a result, all Mercedes-Benz safety cells and crumple zones are now engineered to disperse the unique stresses of both types of collision. Which means impact energy is absorbed progressively and displaced into forked longitudinal members mounted onto extremely rigid sidewall, floor pan and transmission tunnel structures. The energy is therefore dissipated by being transmitted and absorbed in three different directions.

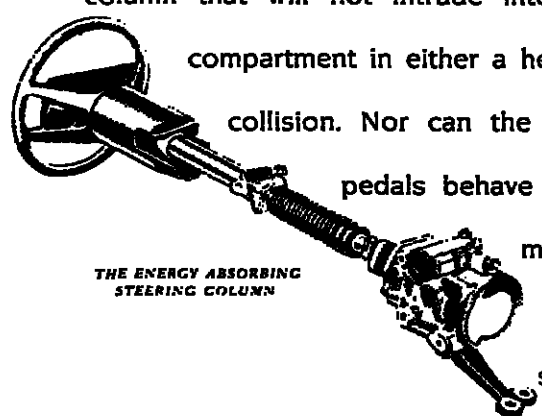
This is a fine example of Mercedes-Benz research and engineering taking the lead in safety development.

A CRASH TEST EVERY THREE DAYS

Mercedes-Benz conduct a crash test every three days, on average. Because safety research is an integral part of the Mercedes-Benz design process, many tests are conducted on components and prototypes prior to full scale production of a new model.

Consequently, the safety development team are well placed to impose their priorities on the fundamental design of a car. Today's Mercedes-Benz models are the most thoroughly tested and safest the company have ever built.

The Mercedes-Benz safety steering system, as an example, is fitted with a distorting cup within the steering wheel, and a collapsible, corrugated column that will not intrude into the passenger compartment in either a head-on or off-set collision. Nor can the clutch or brake pedals behave like blunt instruments. Because of the likelihood of severe accident injuries to the feet, the pedals are designed to swing away from the driver on impact.

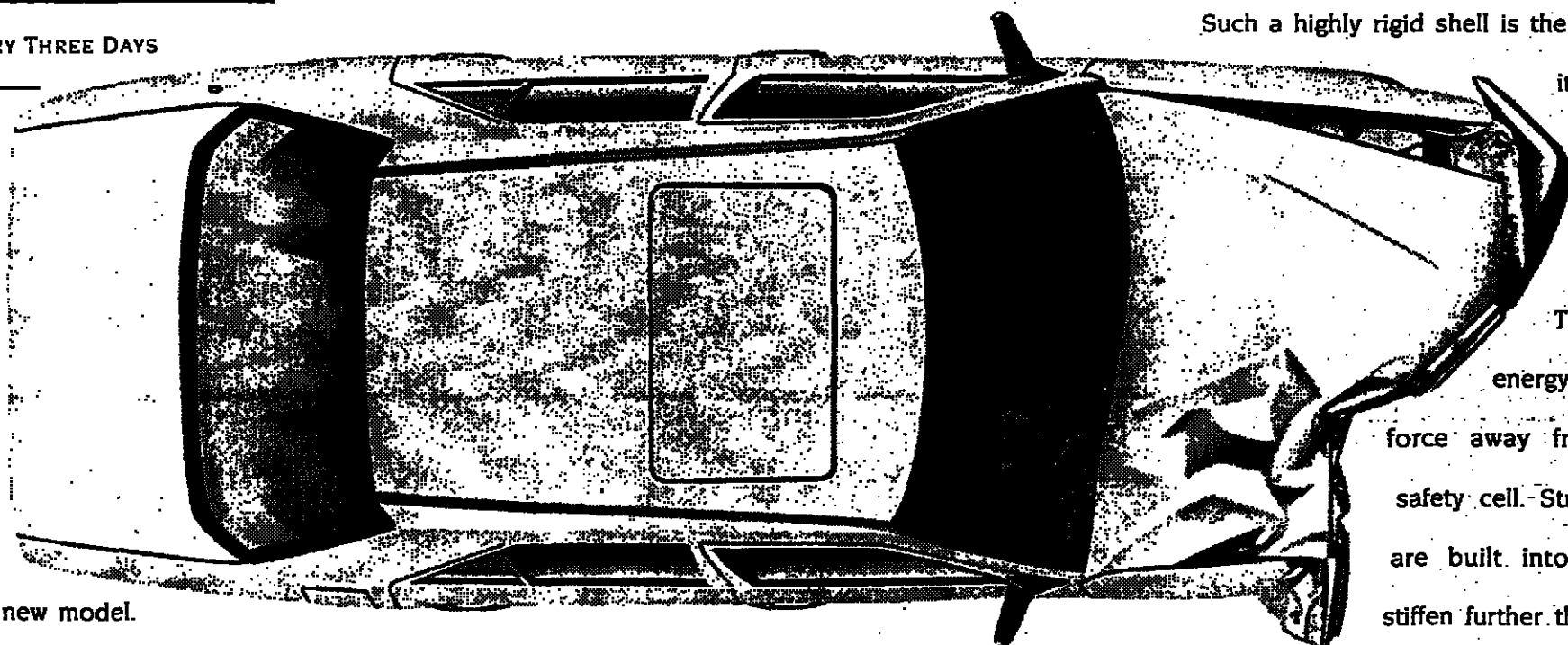


THE ENERGY ABSORBING STEERING COLUMN

THE FATHERS OF AUTOMOTIVE SAFETY

The history of Mercedes-Benz safety consciousness dates from 1931 when they developed independent front suspension to ensure safer roadholding. And as long as thirty-seven years ago, long before "crumple zone" and "safety cell" became part of car industry jargon, Mercedes-Benz patented the first impact-absorbing body shell. But rather than protect the patent in their own

Mercedes-Benz design their cars for the accident that happens most



interests, Mercedes-Benz allowed it to be infringed in everybody's interests, so other car makers could incorporate the idea into their own body designs. A gesture that speaks for itself.

In 1959, Mercedes-Benz became the first manufacturer to systematically crash test and roll-over test their cars. In that year, 80 were destroyed in



SCIENTIFIC CRASH TESTING, CIRCA 1959.

the search for greater passenger security. Since then, no car maker has placed greater emphasis on crash testing, and many others reap the benefits simply by adopting the results of Mercedes-Benz pioneering research.

STATE OF THE ART SAFETY CELL

Computer-aided engineering, combined with extensive use of high strength, low-alloy steel, ensures that Mercedes-Benz monocoque body shells are not only light, but are also outstandingly strong. Such a highly rigid shell is the basic safety element,

its front and rear sections designed to yield progressively in major accidents. They absorb kinetic energy and divert the full force away from the passenger safety cell. Strong cross-members are built into the floor pan to stiffen further the safety cell's resistance to side impact. Additional single section roof frame cross-members enhance the total load bearing capacity of the roof in front, side and roll-over impacts.

HOW THE USE OF AIR CAN REDUCE INJURY RISK

All inertia-reel safety belts fitted to the front seats of Mercedes-Benz cars, have electronic belt tensioners as standard. Above a predetermined level of impact, the tensioner is activated and pulls the belt taut around the body in milliseconds, reducing forward movement of driver and front seat passenger. Above certain speeds, however, impact injuries can still occur no matter how sophisticated the seat belts are.



Therefore, Mercedes-Benz also offer an electronically controlled airbag that is neatly stowed in the steering wheel hub. This innovative safety feature has been available since 1981 and is already fitted to 400,000 Mercedes-Benz cars. A normally invisible guardian, it inflates in milliseconds, under impact, to cushion the driver's head and greatly reduce the risk of chest injuries. Further proof that the Mercedes-Benz commitment to safety is uncompromising, and continues unabated.



ENGINEERED LIKE NO OTHER CAR IN THE WORLD.

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misinform

Baker backs pl

45,000 calls ma
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Tank a vital fo
into 21st centu

By Michael J. Sauter, The Times Staff Writer
The tank is a vital force in the 21st century, as it has been for centuries. It is the most powerful and versatile of all weapons, and it is the only one that can be used in both land and sea. The tank is the backbone of modern warfare, and it is the only weapon that can be used in both land and sea. The tank is the backbone of modern warfare, and it is the only weapon that can be used in both land and sea. The tank is the backbone of modern warfare, and it is the only weapon that can be used in both land and sea.

Opt-out critics accused of misinformation campaign

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

Opponents of the Government's scheme to allow state schools to opt out of local authority control were accused yesterday of mounting a "malicious campaign" to mislead parents.

Mrs Angela Rumbold, Minister of State, Department of Education and Science, told the annual meeting of the Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities in Doncaster that the Government would not stand by and allow "misinformation" to be spread.

As she spoke it was disclosed that the Government had intervened in a bitter dispute between parents in Tameside, Greater Manchester, and the local Labour authority over the right of Audenshaw High School to opt out.

In a letter to Mr Terence Hall, chairman of the governors at Audenshaw, Mrs Rumbold said parents should no longer be misled about the realities of grant-maintained status.

She told her audience in Doncaster that she was seriously concerned about "the campaign of misinformation which appears to be under way in some areas". She said there were "rumours of scare stories" about what would happen to schools that opted out.

"I have heard of attempts to intimidate parents and governors who are

Children as young as five are causing havoc in schools, an investigation by head teachers has revealed. Nearly 14 per cent of the five-year-olds in the study disrupted lessons and caused teachers stress. The investigation, by eight Hampshire head teachers, scrutinized all 13,478 five-year-olds starting infant and first schools in the county last year. Bad behaviour included kicking, biting, swearing, spoiling other pupils' work, ignoring teachers, damaging equipment and being aggressive with staff and classmates. Some children still needed toilet training. Portsmouth education authorities want nursery nurses in first-year infant and first school classrooms.

considering the future of their school. I hope no one here is responsible for this kind of malicious campaign", she said.

The controversy in Tameside has been fanned by a pamphlet issued by the council and interventions by Mr Andrew Bennett, the local MP and a Labour junior education spokesman, who wrote a letter to parents.

In his letter, Mr Bennett said Audenshaw would be ostracized by other schools and could face being banned from local school sports tournaments if it

opted out. The council said pupils could be thrown out of the school by a change in its status and staff could face dismissal overnight.

Without naming the school, Mrs Rumbold dealt with the claims in her speech. "Grant-maintained status is not a back-door route to selection. Schools will not be able to change their character if they opt out", she said.

"They will provide free education. They will not be able to charge fees. And there is no reason why they should not continue to play a full part in the local community or maintain sporting links with neighbouring schools."

"Parents have a right to choose whether to seek this new status for their children's schools. They also have a right to accurate information on which to base their choice. Those who seek to distort the facts to promote their own ends will find themselves the losers."

Speaking at the Open University in Milton Keynes yesterday, Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education, said: "We will not let education authorities frustrate the purposes of the Education Reform Act. If there is misinformation it must be corrected. The [Tameside] council knows that it must not put out misinformation."

Baker backs phone checks on truants

By Our Education Reporter

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, yesterday stepped up his campaign to encourage greater parental responsibility for children.

He told the annual meeting of the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, that parents should ensure their children attended school on time and observed school rules.

He also criticized parents who allowed their children to watch too much television. "If a 10-year-old has a reading age of eight and a viewing age of 18, can that be entirely the teacher's respon-

sibility?" he asked. Mr Baker endorsed the American system of tackling truancy by telephoning the homes of children who failed to arrive at school on time to seek parents' explanations.

"By nine o'clock in the morning they are on the telephone to the homes of children who are not on the register", he said. "It works."

He said the responsibility for truancy also lay with schools. "These youngsters are not turning up because in one way or another they're bored. They do not think that what they are learning is relevant. We must make education more interesting."

"The great majority of parents will say that they do the best for their children.

But maybe some could think harder about what that means."

"High on my list would be laying good foundations in the pre-school years: talking and listening, for example, and not being afraid to say no. A child needs to start school with an idea of how to relate to other people and must understand that you have to have rules."

"You are not a tyrant if you insist on homework before leisure, reasonable bedtime, regular school attendance and a modicum of self-discipline. You are not a spoilsport if you encourage more reading and less television."

He said he should be the confederation's hero. "I have given parents more power than you ever dreamed of."

A party with a purpose

ALAN DAVIDSON



Lord Forte celebrating his eightieth birthday with Dame Vera Lynn at a party with a dual purpose. The party at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London on Tuesday evening also launched the Charles Forte Foundation, a charity supporting training in the British tourism industry. Among other guests were the Princess Royal and Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

'Automatic' divorce rule supported

Changes to the divorce laws which would make divorce automatic after a period of time without the need to prove fault or "irretrievable breakdown" are supported by the Law Society in a paper today. The society says it favours the proposals for change, made by the

Law Commission in July, as an "imaginative way forward". The proposals would allow arrangements for children, property and finances to be dealt with as part of the main divorce process rather than as ancillary proceedings.

Top police back ID cards for everyone

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Reporter

The idea of identity cards for everyone in Britain has been supported by high-ranking police officers, who say they would cut the time taken to identify people and would bring the UK into line with the rest of Europe.

Details of the recommendation are to be sent to chief constables across the country before a final opinion is passed to the Government within the next few months.

Identity cards were approved in principle by an important committee within the Association of Chief Police Officers and will be considered by the organization's ruling council next year.

Official discussions began when the Home Office asked police to consider the extension of plans for football supporters' identity cards to cover everyone. The association's general purposes committee looked at the plan earlier this month.

Some officers argued that cards could bring fresh problems because passports, credit cards and other means of identification are often forged. Others said cards would be a quick means of identification on the streets, saving police using their powers under the 1984 Police and Criminal Evidence Act to arrest suspects who could not identify themselves properly.

A fall in arrests might counter the civil liberties arguments which police accept would be raised. They say people already happily carry personal identification for shopping, driving and banking.

45,000 calls made to abuse helpline

By Peter Davenport

A telephone counselling service set up to help the victims of child sexual abuse has received calls from 45,000 young people in the two years since it was launched.

In more than 95 per cent of cases the abuser came from within the child's family circle, a conference of social service chiefs at Bowdoin-Windermere in the Lake District, was told yesterday.

Childline, which is a free telephone service, said that 85 per cent of children who called were aged 15 years and under and more than half had never previously disclosed that they had been sexually abused.

At the conference child abuse consultants, social services directors and their deputies from 26 local authorities in the North of England discussed new ideas for dealing with the problem.

The three-day conference — the first two in private — was organized in the wake of the Cleveland crisis by the Department of Health's Social Services Inspectorate and local authority social services departments. It was the first of its kind and others may follow.

Mr Brian Harrison, assistant chief inspector for the inspectorate in the North-west, said the conference had given social service depart-

ments a unique opportunity to share ideas and initiatives. That would help build an informal, but invaluable, network between departments.

He said it was important that new practices always took into account the needs of the children involved.

"The bottom line is that we are dealing with human beings and human suffering. It is easy to develop systems and practices which, if we are not careful, can forget that", he told delegates.

The theme of the conference was "the child is a person and not an object of concern", a quotation from the report into the Cleveland crisis by Lord Justice Butler-Sloss.

The conference was told that increased public awareness of the problem was leading to growing numbers of incidents being reported.

Since the Cleveland crisis the Government has issued new guidance on procedures to be adopted in dealing with abuse and extra funds have been provided for the specialist training of social workers.

Mr Deryck Mead, deputy director of social services for Cumbria, which hosted the conference, said it was hoped that co-operation between social workers would make it less likely that events such as Cleveland could reoccur.

Tank a vital force into 21st century

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

The future of Vickers Defence Systems, Britain's sole tank manufacturer, will be in the balance today when a Cabinet committee considers the merits of buying its Challenger Mark 2 main battle tank or the M1A1 Abrams from the United States to replace the British Army's 500 Chieftains tanks.

Vickers' future depends, too, on whether tanks will have a role on the battlefield after the year 2000. Army chiefs think they will.

The Ministry of Defence has carried out a lengthy study called Project Foresight which looked at all the alternatives and concluded that tanks would still have a decisive role to play in the next century. The arguments in their favour were about firepower, mobility and protection.

The key to the tank's survival is that manufacturers have demonstrated that they can continue to make significant improvements in all three of those areas.

In Project Foresight, the Army studied the tank's most potent alternative, the attack helicopter, armed with guided missiles. It has proved to be a devastating weapon on the battlefield, but it has its drawbacks.

Unlike the tank, it is thin-skinned and therefore vulnerable to ground-to-air missiles and rapid-firing, radar-controlled anti-aircraft guns. Another option examined

under Project Foresight was to equip special anti-armour infantrymen with advanced hand-held anti-tank weapons, such as the Trigat system which is being developed by Britain, West Germany and France for the mid-1990s.

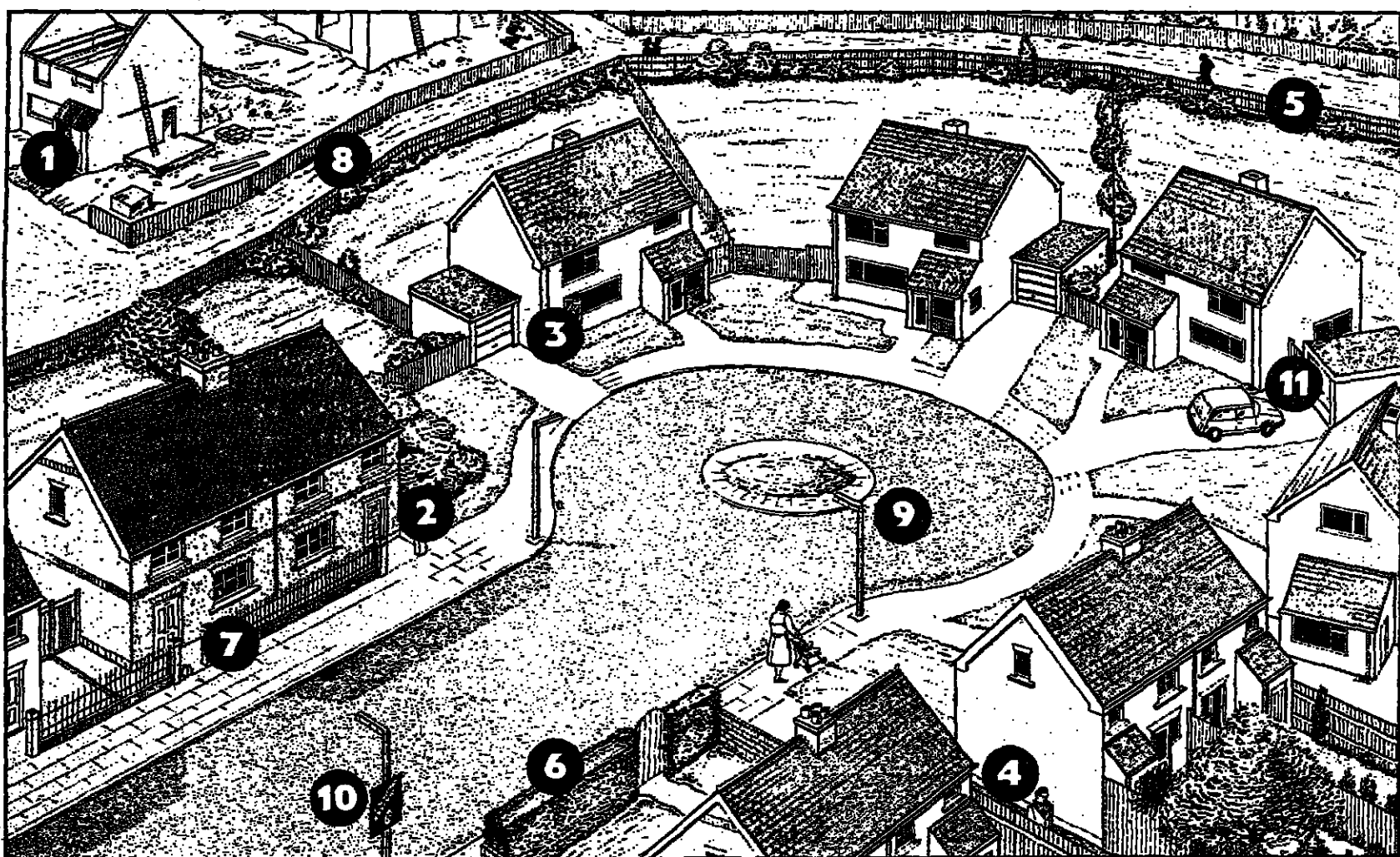
Then there is the awesome Multiple Launch Rocket System, an American weapon, which fires conventional, high speed rockets with small warheads. The system is capable of destroying the target by attacking the tank from above, using explosively-formed "penetrator slugs".

However, even the MLRS will not replace the tank. For, unlike the rocket system, the tank can take and hold ground and is the only weapon capable of operating effectively in a modern mobile war.

Project Foresight found that tanks remained the most valuable and least vulnerable vehicle for guaranteeing highly mobile and well-protected firepower.

The tank of the future, however, will be lighter, faster and lower. A Vickers design study of a tank for the mid-21st century reveals a dramatic change in style.

The turret is replaced by a manoeuvrable video camera which can be extended on a 30ft telescopic stalk to scan the battlefield. Pictures of the battle scene will be fed to television monitors inside the tank and computers will aim the gun. Letters, page 17



TWELVE WAYS TO STOP A BURGLAR ENDING UP INSIDE.

The vast majority of crime is opportunistic, non-violent and against property. Much of this crime can be prevented. And we can all help.

Why not make a start by checking up on matters close to home. Look at your street and community to see if it can be made safer.

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Here are twelve ways to begin.

1. New homes and housing developments could have security designed and built in rather than added as an afterthought.
2. Doors which appear secure to a layman, can seem flimsy to a burglar. Sturdy doors with security deadlocks can foil most burglars.
3. Open or unprotected windows can allow easy access. Fitting — and using — window locks, is a proven deterrent.
4. Passages can become convenient entry or escape routes for burglars. Fitting a high lockable gate across the path hinders them.
5. Low walls at the rear of a building can be dangerously easy to scale. Ideally they should be at least 6' high.
6. On the other hand, high hedges in front of a house can, unfortunately, provide privacy and seclusion for a criminal as well as for the occupants.

7. Burglars are attracted by signs of an unoccupied home: no lights after dark or several days milk or newspapers at the door. Lights or radio on a time-switch can help and cancelling the milk and papers when away is essential.

8. Dark unlit paths and alleyways can conceal more than puddles. Outside lights can make everyone feel a lot safer. If it is public land, the matter should be raised with the landlords or the authorities.

9. Unlit or broken street lamps also need to be pointed out quickly to those responsible.

10. Joining or setting up a Neighbourhood Watch — or getting together with others in the area to share ideas — is a key to tailoring crime prevention to local circumstances.

11. Anyone buying a new car should check that it has up-to-date security built in. Even then, remembering to lock doors, shut windows and remove or hide tempting objects is important. And parking off the street in a garage, or even on a driveway, is safer.

12. The free Crime Prevention Handbook details several dozen more ideas. Phone or send for it now.

For your free copy of "Practical Ways to Crack Crime" telephone 01-200 1000 or send this coupon to: Home Office Crime Prevention, PO Box 2000, London NW9 6BN.

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CRIME

TOGETHER WE'LL CRACK IT

No comfort for 'Mayor Mouth' in the 'Bess Mess'

From Charles Bremner
New York

It was one of those moments that New York knows how to savour. For weeks, the "Bess Mess", a sorry fable of love, corruption and glamour has been packing in the crowds in the fifth floor of the Manhattan Criminal Court. Late on Tuesday, power entered the stage in the form of Mayor Edward Koch, giving testimony against the woman he was once tipped to marry.

Never in his 11-year administration had Mr Koch testified against an associate, despite the departure of about 50 senior city officers throughout the 1980s under indictment or less formal charges of corruption. It was clear that the normally voluble "Mayor Mouth" was about as uncomfortable as anyone could remember him being.

Scowling, squinting and puffing up his cheeks as he tersely

answered questions, the mayor avoided all but one glance at the still beautiful Miss Bess Myerson, the 1945 Miss America, television celebrity and New York Cultural Commissioner until Mr Koch sacked her.

Miss Myerson, he told the court, was no longer his friend, though she had helped him win election and once served him well. She had misled him and had been dismissed in 1983.

The mayor used to attribute his 1977 election to the constant presence of Miss Myerson at his side during the campaign. As his adoring companion, she helped defuse charges from opponents who were trying to paint the single Mr Koch as a gay liberal from Greenwich Village.

Just about every columnist worth his expense account, from Mr Jimmy Breslin on down, was in court on Tuesday to record a choice moment in New York's

unsurpassed annals of scandal. But the mayor, who faces an uphill battle for re-election next year and clearly wished he was elsewhere, did not oblige. "New York is more and more a stage where the emptier the script, the more star-studded the troupe," sniffed Murray Kempton, the veteran columnist, yesterday.

What Mr Koch failed to do was provide more than minimum fresh meat for an event that is being treated as a parable about the sins and excesses of New York in the glitzy 1980s. The sentencing last weekend of Mr Mario Biaggi, the city's senior congressman, and another local politician, to eight years jail each for racketeering, received nothing like this attention. Neither did the prosecution of yet another New York congressman on extortion charges on Monday.

Miss Myerson, now 64, a woman who captivated New York

and America for decades with a fairytale story of success, is on trial on charges of bribing a distinguished woman judge, now aged 75 and nearly blind, to reduce the heavy alimony against her lover, a Mafia-connected millionaire sewerage contractor, two decades her junior, who is now serving a four-year sentence for tax fraud. The bribe, say the prosecution, took the form of a low-level job that Miss Myerson gave the daughter of Judge Horstense Gabel.

For two weeks earlier this month, the star performer was Miss Sukhree Gabel, a troubled but articulate 39-year-old, who spiced testimony against her mother with a bravura performance on the television talk shows. Local press descriptions of Miss Gabel range from "emotionally disturbed" to plain "cuckoo".

By the standards of New York

petty — so trivial that many people are backing Miss Myerson's view that she is the victim of the ambitions of Mr Rudolph Giuliani, the federal prosecutor who has made himself a celebrity by bringing to book a Who's Who of famous felons, from Mr Ivan Boesky and his fellow insider traders to the chiefs of the New York Mafia and Congressman Biaggi. The prosecution started only last year after an enemy leaked a confidential mayor's report to the *New York Post*.

After watching the Koch performance, Jimmy Breslin took the Myerson side for the first time yesterday. Mr Giuliani's "prosecutorial overkill", he said, reminded him of the remark by Red Louis Levine, an old-time gangster, when the "Feds" broadened a simple charge of extortion into an income tax case. "I'm here over a cheap assault, a guy don't pay," Red Louis said. "What are

you trying to do, make a federal case out of this?"

But there is no shortage of pundits who are meaning from the long and costly trial. *Vanity Fair* magazine this week said it "illustrates a much larger story" than simply a saga of love, sex, money and the troubles of an ageing beauty queen with a fatal capacity for picking the wrong men.

"Famous women all over the city, who have told their own lies and raised themselves from their own miserable childhoods, are identifying with Bess Myerson," it said. Miss Myerson, the first Jewish Miss America who later stood for election to the Senate, operated in the New York bazaar of favours and celebrity, hubris and betrayal, "where the fashionable and the powerful routinely trade deals for deals. She was a star of this New York of smart dinners, tickets and tables. . . Clear-cut

notions of right and wrong won't get anyone a top table."

That is the crux of the case. For the people of this New York, well satirised in Tom Wolfe's best-selling *Bonfire of the Vanities*, Miss Myerson's action was a routine case of implicit deal-making, known here as: "You do for me, I do for you". Miss Myerson does not contest the facts. Her lawyers are simply trying to prove that there is nothing to the circumstantial evidence and that she did nothing criminal. The former beauty queen, tall, elegant and depicted by the tabloid press as a tragic heroine, now travels alone by subway to her daily ordeal. She is shunned by the world she moved in, particularly since the public has been regaled with some sordid accounts of her past romances.

"No one will even testify for Bess," reported Liz Smith, the gossip columnist.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Onassis's body is flown to island

Buenos Aires — The body of Christina Onassis began its journey to the Greek island of Skopelos yesterday where it is to be buried beside her brother, and father Aristotle Onassis, on Saturday (Michael Llanos writes).

The Argentinian Government authorized its transfer, despite an investigation into the cause of her death last Saturday, after Señor Enrique Nosiola, the Interior Minister, met Greek Orthodox Church authorities.

Gorbachov visit cut

President Gorbachov's visit to Britain next month will be shorter than expected and will concentrate heavily on political business (Andrew McEwen writes).

Although the dates announced by the Prime Minister, December 12 to 14, have not changed, it now appears that his total time in Britain will be little more than a day and a half. *The Times* understands that his arrival has been provisionally scheduled for 11 pm, too late for any engagements that day. He is still expected to meet the Queen, but no details have yet been announced.

Successor to Grosz

Budapest — Mr Miklos Nemeth, aged 40, was yesterday named as Hungary's new Prime Minister. He will take over from Mr Karoly Grosz who is stepping aside to concentrate on his main role as party leader (Sallie Crovdy writes).

Mr Nemeth's nomination, to be ratified by Parliament today, marks an early peak to an already meteoric rise through party ranks. The economist was promoted to the Politburo as Economic Secretary only in May after less than a year on the Central Committee.

Warning for Nato

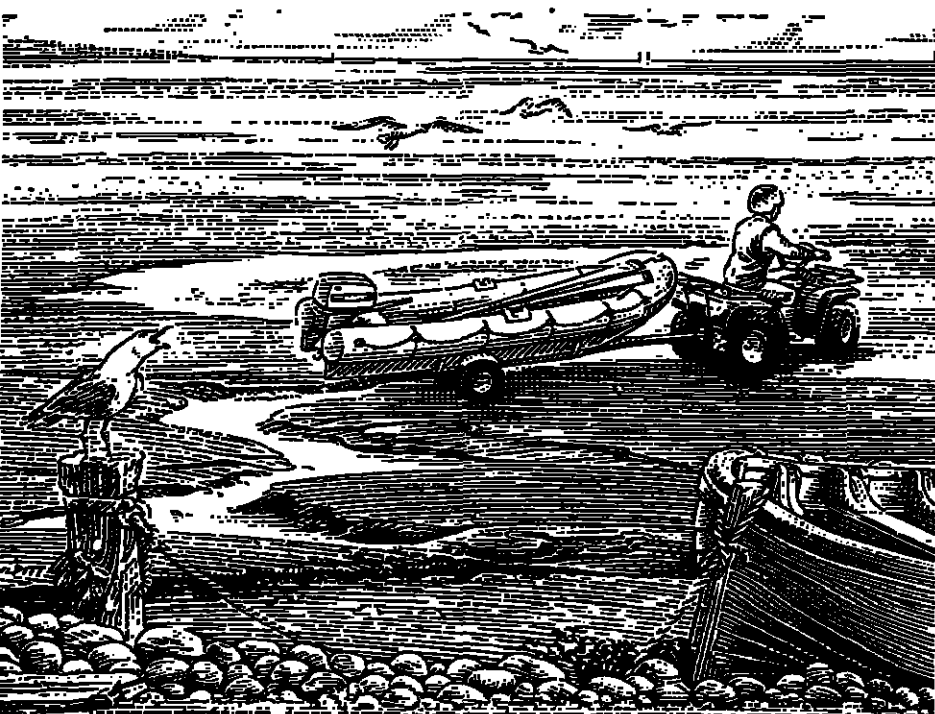
Herr Manfred Wörner, the Nato Secretary-General, said yesterday that the alliance must not jeopardize its policy of deterrence by dropping its nuclear guard (Michael Evans writes). "We must convince Western public opinion that the vision of a nuclear-free Europe, far from reducing the risks, would in practice entail the much greater risk of leading to a greater instability and to conflict," Herr Wörner said.

Bomb misses general

Bogotá — General Manuel Hainne Guerrero Paz, the Colombian Defence Minister, escaped unhurt but three members of his escort were killed when left-wing rebels tried to assassinate him in Bogotá on Tuesday evening (Geoffrey Matthews writes). A bomb was detonated by remote control near the Ministry of Defence as the general, who was appointed on November 4, was being driven home in a bullet-proof car.

Massacre in barracks

Lisbon — A National Republican Guards corporal ran amok during morning roll call in barracks near the presidential palace here yesterday, shot dead four comrades and wounded 12 more (Martha de la Cal writes). Corporal Saravia Nunes, aged 28, wearing a bulletproof vest, shot the men with a hunting rifle and then shot himself with a pistol. He is in critical condition.

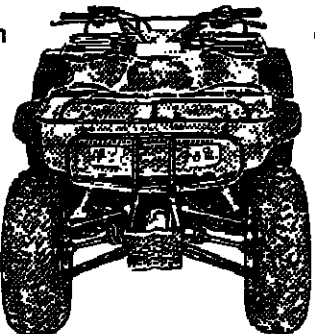


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Miss Bhutto, at a press conference in Islamabad yesterday, attacking the delay in naming her as Pakistani Prime Minister.

Bhutto insists on right to govern

From Anatol Lieven, Islamabad

Miss Benazir Bhutto has insisted that acting President Ghulam Ishaq Khan should accept her right to form a government in Pakistan at once, before the National Assembly meets on December 5.

She said yesterday, the day after meeting the President, that she welcomed his commitment to the peaceful and democratic transfer of power, but his delay was unconstitutional.

The President is so far sticking to his line that only when Parliament meets can the parliamentary majority, and the Prime Minister, be chosen. However, he has promised further consultations with legal experts on this issue.

Miss Bhutto, leader of the Pakistan People's Party, said that the delay is being interpreted by large numbers of people as a device to give time

for the misuse of official patronage and power to bribe and bully members of Parliament to join her opponents, the Islamic Democratic Alliance.

As far as forming the central government is concerned, the alliance with only 54 seats to the People's Party's 93, looks in a very weak position.

The third largest party, the Mohajir Qaumi Movement, seems by its public statements to be tilting towards a coalition with Miss Bhutto.

The fourth largest party, the Jamiat-Ulema-e-Islam religious party, has declared that it does not like the idea of a woman prime minister, although it will accept the Constitution and the will of the people.

Statements by both these parties on their choice of coalition partner are expected in the next few days.

Leading article, page 17

Bush brings back Ford's 'wise man' to security

From Michael Binyon
Washington

Moving swiftly to consolidate his foreign affairs team before meeting President Gorbachov next month, President-elect Bush yesterday named General Brent Scowcroft, the National Security Adviser under President Ford, to do the same job for him.

The appointment will draw swift and widespread applause from Republicans, Democrats and overseas allies. General Scowcroft, one of the authors of the incisive Tower Commission report on the Iran-Contra affair, has held a large number of advisory posts, and has headed a commission looking into the US strategic weapons systems. He has widespread experience in dealing with the allies and the Russians.

He will replace General Colin Powell, who will return to his Army career. Mr Bush

yesterday encouraged speculation that the black general might be named Chief of the Army Staff or even chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff by saying that General Powell had a "friend and admirer in the White House".

Mr Bush described General Scowcroft as an "honest broker". He would not make policy, leaving that to Mr James Baker, the designated Secretary of State. But "he will convey to me exactly the feelings of the Cabinet members that are involved in international affairs, national security affairs, whether it's on the economic policy, or defence side. He will bring those to me."

Mr Bush has worked closely with General Scowcroft over many years, and was Director of the Central Intelligence Agency at the time that General Scowcroft was National Security Adviser to President Ford. Mr Bush also consulted

him frequently on national security issues during the campaign.

He said General Scowcroft knew the importance of approaching foreign and national security policy on a bipartisan basis, and had earned the respect of world leaders. He would make "very sure" that the intelligence community stayed out of policy-making. And he would keep Mr Bush fully informed with daily briefings, waking him up at night if necessary during a crisis.

Outlining some of General Scowcroft's priorities, Mr Bush said he would work to keep America strong while taking "a fresh, tough look in these times of budgetary crunch at the Defence Department". He would advise the president on arms control objectives, and help settle bureaucratic battles. Mr Bush said he shared General Scowcroft's caution over swift

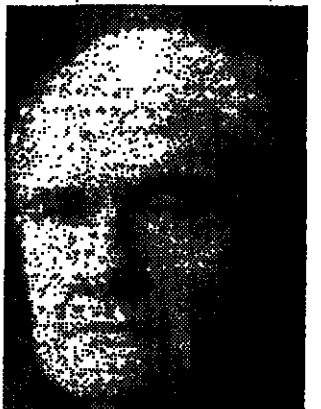
progress on arms control. "What I want to do, whether it's in arms control or any other bilateral relations with the Soviet Union, is to take enough time to set our course, to be sure that we're all on the same wavelength."

He said this caution "should not be taken as a negative sign that I don't want greater progress with the Soviet Union". He would make that clear to Mr Gorbachov at their lunch meeting on December 7.

In response to questions about the delay in naming a Defence Secretary, widely expected to be the former senator, Mr John Tower, Mr Bush said he understood the human hurt and raised hopes of those who were left without word during leaks and speculation. But he said he had to take his time in finding the right people with whom he felt comfortable. And he insisted that he had moved

more quickly to name his team than almost any previous president.

General Scowcroft, aged 63, is a former Air Force pilot, professor of Russian and loyal aide to Dr Henry Kissinger. His return will be widely applauded, for he has earned a reputation as one of the "wise



General Scowcroft: Will be President's "honest broker".

men" of America who has played vital roles in advising presidents and formulating national security policy.

One of his first jobs will be to advise President-elect Bush on which weapons system he should develop. As chairman of a Special Commission on Strategic Forces appointed by President Reagan in 1983, he has recommended the development of the single-headed, smaller, Midgeman missile for mobile land-based deployment and the putting of MX missiles in hardened existing Minuteman silos.

Last year General Scowcroft was one of the three elder statesmen invited by Mr Reagan to investigate the Iran-Contra affair and suggest ways the National Security Council should be reorganized after the scandal. Under the chairmanship of Mr Tower, the report was a vital turning point in the Administration's recovery.

Greek 'gifts' threaten to sink socialists

From Mario Modiano, Athens

The popularity of the Greek socialists has sunk to its lowest level since they rose to power in 1981 as the Government of Mr Andreas Papandreu fights to overcome the corruption and scandal that has plagued Greece in recent months.

Opinion polls published yesterday revealed that Pasok, the ruling socialist party, lags a full 17 points behind its conservative rival, New Democracy, whose lead last February was less than 10 points.

Inevitably, opposition pressure for immediate elections is growing, as the Government's mismanagement of the Bank of Crete scandal and the escape of Mr George Koskotas, the disgraced banker and publisher, leave many questions unanswered.

A local radio station

claimed yesterday to have obtained a statement from the fugitive banker at Rio de Janeiro airport, through the pilot of the private jet that had spirited him out of Greece. He said: "Yes, I do want to speak out. I am very angry at being blamed by those who until now were eating from the same plate as me."

A preliminary audit in the Bank of Crete revealed that its deposits worth at least £120 million, belonging mainly to state enterprises, were missing from its coffers. A 120-page report named Greek soccer figures and journalists as beneficiaries, but no politicians.

Lists of lavish hand-outs identified them by coded numbers, and the report spoke of briefcases stacked with banknotes that were taken by Mr Koskotas's chauffeur di-

rectly to recipients.

The chauffeur himself was named as receiving £100,000 which, auditors suggested, could have been the product of blackmail.

What aggravates the Government's position is not just that Mr Koskotas fled while his exit was banned and he was watched by an elite police corps, but that the authorities have since made little effort to apprehend him.

Interpol, apparently, was notified 48 hours after the banker's disappearance, but it was thanks only to Greek reporters that Mr Koskotas, his wife and five children, were traced to two hotels in Rio de Janeiro. Greece has no extradition treaty with Brazil.

Even more extraordinary was the revelation that the banker had left the country in

the private jet of another Greek tycoon, Mr Argyris Saliaris.

Details were revealed of how Mr Koskotas was smuggled aboard the Lear Jet that left Athens airport for Khar-toum on November 7. It was rerouted via Malta, Shannon, Iceland, Gander, Bermuda, Manaus in Brazil, and then to Rio, where reporters identified it this week.

The affair, by its sheer magnitude, has overshadowed a spate of other scandals being exposed almost daily in Greece. One related case involves the chief accountant of the Post Office who, attracted by Mr Koskotas's higher interest rates, purloined £22 million and deposited it in the Bank of Crete, netting from the difference, an extra £350,000.

Legal action was also taken this week against the former president and directors of the state-owned Hellenic Arms Industry. Fraud worth £13 million was alleged, relating to exorbitant fringe benefits to top executives, expensive gifts of gold to visitors, and kick-backs from orders linked to the Artemis-30 anti-aircraft project.

The most bizarre of the latest scandals is over an order of 9,610 Italian pistols by Fyrcal, the state ammunition factory, for re-export to Paraguay. The Greek Defence Ministry halted the shipment to verify why Paraguay should need an intermediary to order weapons from Italy, suspecting that if the "end-user" certificate is false, the arms could be sold for subversion or terrorism.

Australians bugged by desperate bunnies

From Christopher Morris, Sydney

At least 200 million starving rabbits — 12 times the human population of Australia — are on the rampage in the outback, causing untold damage in their desperate search for food.

In what is officially described as one of the worst plagues ever recorded in Australia, thousands of rabbits are now dying after exhausting all supplies of food and water.

Officers of Australia's Animal and Plant Control Commission estimate that there are at least 24 million rabbits on one cattle station alone at Quinyamille in South Australia.

Dr Brian Cooke, the commission's senior research officer, explained: "There are 12 men operating in the area who've been sent there to shoot as many rabbits as they can as humanely as they can. But even if they shot a million rabbits each it would have

virtually no impact on the population."

Hordes of rabbits are overrunning vast areas, nibbling their way across pasture after good rains in 1987 and again this year.

Dr Cooke and two other officers who recently drove through one of the worst-affected regions have reported seeing a well 20 ft deep filled with dead and dying rabbits.

They also saw every square inch of shade beneath trees and bushes and by fence posts packed with rabbits anxious to get out of the scorching sun. Thirty-two rabbits were lidded in the shadow of a turnip plant caught in a wire fence. And the banks and bottoms of dried up dams were almost completely carpeted with dead rabbits.

When the commission's officers stopped for a few minutes' rest,

hundreds of rabbits sought refuge in the shade of their vehicle. They counted more than 500 rabbits in the shade of a nearby gum tree.

"I have never seen anything like it before," said Dr Cooke. "While we were having our tea the rabbits were coming in ringing our camping area."

"I left an unwashed plate on the ground and the rabbits were actually sitting in it licking the plate clean."

"The rabbits are succumbing quickly with the onset of hot weather but only after they have caused enormous damage to perennial pasture plants."

"They have obliterated the seed-

lings of trees and shrubs which regenerated during the same rainy period that has encouraged the explosion in the rabbit population."

"Without successful regeneration

these areas will become increasingly treeless with no feed and shelter for stock and wildlife during drought years."

Dr Alan Newsome, an ecologist, said there is now evidence that the rabbits are able to tolerate even the most virulent strains of myxomatosis introduced 30 years ago and it is no longer effective in controlling such huge increases in the rabbit population.

Mr Ron Hyde, manager of the Quinyamille station, said a 6-ft-high corrugated iron fence has had to be built around the homestead to keep the rabbits out.

"Some areas of the ground are virtually moving around here, there are that many of them," he said on the radio telephone, with almost a hint of desperation in his voice.

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Rise of Hindu

Leading hawk
Knesset Speak

Blast kills pri

Rape law

Chissano back

Hirohito

24 years jail

Canoe

Chun surrenders his fortune before going into exile in temple

From John Gittelsohn, Seoul

Former President Chun entered exile in a mountain Buddhist temple yesterday after promising to surrender his fortune and apologizing for the corruption and repression of his eight-year authoritarian regime.

"I am willing to subject myself to any ordeal, if it is the punishment imposed by my fellow countrymen," Mr Chun said, fighting back tears. "I will go any place you tell me to as an atonement, except I will not leave my homeland." He stated repeatedly that, as chief of state, he was responsible for the misdeeds of his family and subordinates.

The former general, aged 57, however, did not detail his personal role in seizing power in the 1980 military coup, or in ordering the killings of hundreds of protesters in the Kwangju uprising, or in coercing millions of pounds in donations for a think-tank that was to serve as a power base after retirement.

His wife sobbed uncontrollably as the couple left their Seoul mansion, from which Mr Chun had delivered his nationally televised address. In the afternoon, the Chuns were photographed fraternizing with shaven-headed monks in a spartan Buddhist temple in the Sorak mountain national park, 90 miles east of Seoul.

Mr Chun's apology was supposed to be his final curtain call, a bow to popular outrage against his repressive rule. He promised to surrender £11 million in undisclosed campaign funds and all

his personal property, valued at £1.8 million. He denied rumours that he had hidden a fortune in the United States or Australia.

But the opposition immediately signalled its dissatisfaction, demanding that the ex-president testify publicly on alleged irregularities during his reign.

"Today Mr Chun's speech, as a personal expression of apology, has some meaning," said Mr Kim Dae Jung, leader of the largest opposition block in the National Assembly. "But it was not sufficient to

Seoul (AP) — The Government is considering a request to allow people to watch television broadcasts from North Korea. The proposal to show non-political news, sport, weather and academic seminars from North Korean television was made at a policy advisory meeting sponsored by the National Unification Board.

explain questions the people have about him and his past."

Student leaders vowed to continue their violent anti-government campaign, demanding that Mr Chun be arrested and President Roh resign. "It was just an act," Mr Chong Myong Soo, president of the Yonsei University Student Association, said of Mr Chun's apology. "And we are even angrier at Roh Tae Woo for trying to protect him."

Mr Roh, a lifelong comrade and hand-picked successor of the ex-president, plans a national address next week in

which he will appeal for leniency toward Mr Chun.

Leaders of the ruling Democratic Justice Party, which Mr Chun founded after seizing power, resigned en masse yesterday. An important Cabinet shake-up is expected before the end of the year in an effort to sweep remnants of Mr Chun's regime from power.

"Now we should all try to bury the hatchet for national harmony," said Mr Park Jun Byung, the outgoing DJP Secretary General and a former military comrade of Mr Chun.

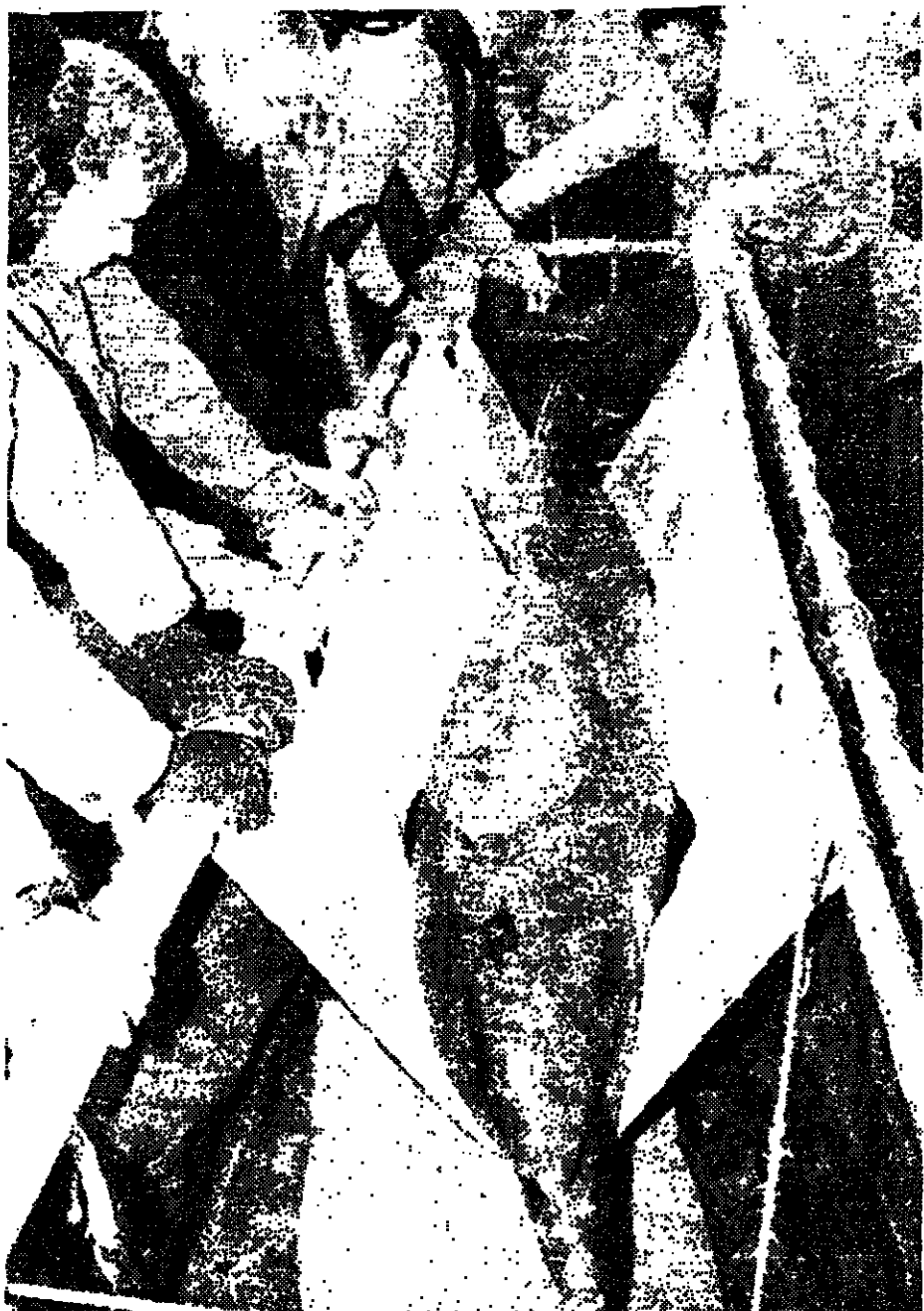
Mr Chun's speech drew the largest television audience in South Korean history, estimated at 82 per cent of all viewers by one survey group. This city of 10 million looked like a ghost town as people deserted the streets to watch the 27-minute address.

Some were swayed by his emotional apology, while others resented the fact that he was being let off the hook easily. "Behind his tears are the tears of hundreds of thousands of people who suffered under eight years of his regime," said Mr M.K. Park, a Seoul businessman.

"I don't know anything about politics," said Mrs Bae Chong Nam, a 62-year-old cigarette saleswoman. "But when I heard Mr Chun's wife crying on the radio, I took pity on them."

Even those who doubted the sincerity of Mr Chun's apology said that his exile, the traditional punishment for disgraced Korean kings, will be a heavy penalty.

Dolphin 'escape' from Egypt



Nemo, a performing dolphin abandoned with his partner, Lina, at a hotel in Cairo, being lifted into a pool at Marineland, in Antibes, France. The dolphins were flown out of Egypt yesterday morning, bringing protests from

their owner that they had been kidnapped (AP reports). Permission for them to leave was cancelled by an injunction yesterday. "But they were already out of the country," Mr Edmond Speck, the hotel manager, said.

González will go for Eta leaders in French talks

From Philip Jacobson, Madrid

A gaping hole in the wall of the Civil Guard headquarters in Madrid and a splash of dried blood on the shrapnel-scattered pavement provided grim proof yesterday that the hard men of Eta, the Basque separatist organization, are back in business.

The powerful car-bomb which exploded there just before midnight on Tuesday, killing a passing man and a boy, aged 3, and injuring some 50 others, was clearly intended to carry the terrorists' message of defiance to Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, as he prepared for the opening of yesterday's "summit" with President Mitterrand of France in the French city of Montpellier.

It was the first big operation that Eta's elusive Madrid Commando had carried out since the kidnapping of Señor Emiliano Revilla, a prominent Spanish industrialist, last February. That led to the suspension of the Government's tentative contacts with exiled Basque leaders in Algeria, and although Señor Revilla was set free last month for an estimated £5 million ransom, this new attack on so symbolic a target as the Guard's heavily protected base in the centre of the capital effectively torpedoed any immediate prospect of peace talks resuming.

Barely 24 hours before the explosion Señor González had emphasized in an interview with *Le Monde* in Paris that Eta "is becoming less and less ideological, more and more fanatical". However, the Prime Minister is adamant that Eta will never bomb its way to the negotiating table.

The latest outrage will merely strengthen his Government's determination to lay hands on the Eta leadership operating from sanctuaries in the French Basque country.

As the Spanish authorities see it, sustained pressure from Paris under the previous Conservative Government — above all the new law permitting expulsion by decree with a minimum of delay — delivered large numbers of "privates and sergeants" into the hands of the Spanish police at the frontier. But as Señor González observes, Eta's top men — albeit increasingly nervous — are better protected. "I am convinced that Eta could not survive for long without a secure base from which to direct overall strategy," he said.

Can France's Socialist Government be relied upon to step up the pressure on Eta's exiled leaders? M. Pierre Joxe, the present Interior Minister, was responsible for the first significant co-operation against terrorism between the two countries in the early 1980s, and today he gives every sign of being as keen for it to continue. "There's no limit to the help we'll give Spain in fighting the terrorists," he promised recently. The ministry's latest budget contains substantial funds earmarked for "special measures" in the Basque region.

So far, so good: the French have even resumed expulsions in recent few weeks. Yet the faintest of doubts — reservations perhaps — appear to persist on the Spanish side about the degree of co-operation to be expected from Paris in the final assault on Eta.

Rise of Holocaust survivor

Leading hawk is Knesset Speaker

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Mr Dov Shilansky has for years won headlines and fame as one of Israel's leading hawks.

Now, after an election as controversial as his own personality, he has been elected Speaker of the Knesset.

Born in Lithuania 65 years ago, Mr Shilansky's outlook was formed by the horrors of the Holocaust, in which his family perished.

A ghetto fighter captured and sent to Dachau, he was a rare survivor of the death march from the camp to the Tyrol. Released by the Allies, he quickly joined the European section of the Irgun underground movement, rising to command it in the field in Germany and then Italy.

In 1948, shortly after the state of Israel was declared, he arrived on an Irgun armed ship and promptly joined the Army.

He was a co-founder of the Herut Party, formed by Mr Menachem Begin, the Irgun leader, and he joined in angry demonstrations against the agreement to accept repatriation from Germany.

He took his personal protest



Mr Dov Shilansky. An outspoken man of principle.

to the extreme, smuggling a suitcase packed with explosives into the Foreign Ministry in Tel Aviv. The bomb failed to go off, but he was jailed for 21 months.

The 1977 election, which brought Mr Begin to power, took Mr Shilansky to the Knesset. Four years later he became a deputy minister in the Prime Minister's office, with responsibility for co-ordinating legislative affairs.

The post also gave him a wider audience for his outspoken views.

Like Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, he abstained in the vote over the Camp David peace accord with Egypt. He is on record as saying: "I am against giving up one millimetre — let me correct that — a simple grain of sand of any part of the homeland west of the Jordan river. Yes, the East Bank is part of the homeland and it hurts that it is in Arab hands."

Since 1984 he has been chairman of the Knesset's Interior Committee, a post in which he tried, unsuccessfully, to use force to enter Al Aqsa mosque to search for alleged arms caches.

He has campaigned for the release of Jewish underground members convicted of terrorism against Arab mayors and of trying to blow up Al Aqsa. This year, he chaired the Herut committee which drew up the party platform for the election. This called for immediate imposition of Israeli law over the territories and declared that all of the land west of the Jordan was an "eternal and indisputable" part of Israel.

Whatever his views, however, his many friends and many political enemies all regard him as an honourable man of principle.

Blast kills priest

Moulins, France (Reuters) — Father Emile Legou, aged 69, and Mme Christine Bonnot, aged 60, his secretary, were killed yesterday by a powerful gas explosion at Notre Dame de Moulins cathedral in central France. The windows of shops in the surrounding square were smashed by the blast. Choirboys had reported smelling gas on Sunday.

Rape law

The Hague (Reuters) — Husband in The Netherlands convicted of raping their wives could face up to 12 years' jail under a new draft law aimed at toughening punishment for sex crimes.

Chissano back

Maputo (Reuters) — President Chissano of Mozambique has returned home "feeling fine and ready for work" from Cuba, where he had surgery to remove his prostate gland.

20 years' jail

Ankara — Katrül Dameng, an escaped right-wing convict who tried to assassinate Mr Turgut Ozal, the Turkish Prime Minister on June 18, was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment, having been reprieved from hanging.

Aids find

Milan (Reuters) — Italian scientists have managed to infect laboratory mice with the Aids virus in a move they say could speed up the search for a vaccine and will make research into the disease significantly cheaper.

Hirohito weak

Tokyo (AP) — Emperor Hirohito lay in feeble but stable condition yesterday, palace officials said, as local news media reported signs that his health continues to decline.

Canoeists safe

Darwin (AP) — The 18 crew members of nine outrigger canoes missing for 24 hours on an expedition from the Indonesian island of Bali to Darwin have been found safe, the expedition leader said.

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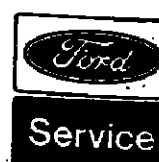
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Eritrean group outwits MiGs to hold off famine

From Andrew Buckoke, Hinfel, Eritrea

A dull roar came over the rocky ridges as the first of two Ethiopian MiGs hurried over the valley. They circled three times before deciding that there was no target here.

Some movement may have attracted them, but apparently they could not distinguish the rest house and three tiny offices of the Eritrean Relief Association (ERA), all dug into the rocky hillsides and camouflaged with trees, from which a \$100m-a-year (\$55.5 million) relief effort is controlled.

ERA expects to have distributed 100,000 tonnes of food by the end of the year, feeding 600,000 people and so averting the threat of widespread famine in Eritrea. Western relief agencies, who fed nearly one million people from the government side, believed such an effort was impossible when harvests failed at the end of last year.

Despite the continual threat of air bombardment, which forces them to move mainly at night along the tortuous roads cut through the mountains by the Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front, ERA's fleet of 200 lorries has kept pounding the routes from Sudan not only into areas in the north controlled by the front, but into the "grey areas" in southern

Eritrea officially under Government control. According to Mr Gebremichael Menghistu, the ERA field co-ordinator based at Hinfel, the organization had hoped to reach 900,000 people this year, but the shortfall appears to have been made up by relief agencies operating on the Government side, in particular Catholic relief services.

He says the Ethiopian Government Relief and Rehabilitation Commission has reached only people in the main cities — Asmara, Massawa and Keren — and accuses it of favouring government supporters. "The Ethiopian Government uses famine to force people into submission," he says.

The latest example of this, he says, was the ending of an air-spraying campaign against locusts in the north, apparently tacitly agreed by the Sudanese and Ethiopian governments, after spraying aircraft were harassed by Ethiopian MiGs.

The locusts are the only remaining natural threat to the good harvest now being brought in. The spraying programme, organized by ERA in conjunction with the front's Department of Agriculture, has been fairly effective, however, and widespread crop

damage is no longer expected. The Eritrean Relief Association still expects to feed 600,000 people next year — but, for the first time in the 1980s, because of the 27-year war between the Eritrean nationalists and the Ethiopian Government, rather than natural causes, 400,000 of them will be people newly displaced or unable to plant because of the heavy fighting earlier this year.

The remaining 200,000 include the 70,000 previously displaced into camps run by the front; pastoralists who will continue to receive support so that they can rebuild their herds of camels and goats; people in front schools and hospitals; and the 12,000 Ethiopian prisoners of war held by the front.

Most of the money comes from a consortium of Western relief agencies, including Oxfam, Band-Aid and Christian Aid of the UK, while Scandinavian and American Protestant churches are also leading donors.

The EEC, USAID and other government agencies funnel assistance through their national non-government agencies, rather than giving directly, to minimize difficulties on the Ethiopian side, where they have large pro-



Eritrean children at a camp shared by 8,000 refugees at Filfil, near Naqfa, looking out for the approach of Ethiopian MiGs.

grammes. The donors apparently accept the feeding of the PoWs, even at the level of 1 kg of grain a day — twice the normal ration. As Mr Menghistu points out: "Sometimes there is some hard work." Most of the camps are along the usually dry river bed that is the main supply route from Sudan into the Eritrean mountain base area.

Every time there is a flash

flood, however, the PoWs have to clear boulders from the track.

This is one example of the crossover between ERA and front operations.

It is in fact almost impossible to disentangle them. ERA's trucks are unmarked, and indistinguishable from those of the front. Most of ERA's staff are also front members. There is little doubt

that the front benefits from the enlarged pool of lorries and fuel in the area. It controls, but the donors say that this does not matter if the agreed amount of food gets to the most needy people.

Although the steering committees which assess needs and determine allocations are heavily influenced by front members, the donors are happy that the target is being



ever. ERA occasionally got supplies to the Afar tribe in the area by boat, but under the martial law introduced in May the Ethiopian Government has ordered all boats to gather at the ports of Massawa, Assab and Tio, establishing a free-fire zone for 10 km along the entire coast.

Apart from preventing the traditional activities of fishing and trading — or smuggling — the Ethiopians have been bombing and shelling the coastal settlements from the sea in an effort to force the people to move to the larger towns.

But even in the camps for the displaced run by the front and ERA, life is far from rosy. At Filfil, a camp for 8,000 people near Naqfa, we saw 19 tiny stone mounds, the graves of children stillborn or unable to survive after birth because of their mothers' malnutrition.

These were mostly new arrivals, in the past five months, however, and most of the people at the camp appeared reasonably fed. But they still have to build their huts into the rocky hillsides, and cover the roofs with branches to camouflage them.

Refugee camps are not safe from the bombardment that forced many of the inmates to flee in the first place.

Indian opposition pact troubled

From Edward Gorman, Delhi

An opposition alliance regarded by some observers as having the best chance of offering an alternative to the ruling Congress (I) Party is facing a crucial test of unity a month after its formation.

The Janata Dal brought together the Jan Morcha movement, largely consisting of Congress (I) defectors; the Janata Party, which had a faction-ridden period in government between 1977 and 1980; the farmers' party, Lok Dal (B); and the tiny Congress (S), which broke away from the main party. Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh was elected the party's first president.

The Janata Dal leaders vowed that they would stay together to unseat the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in elections which he must call before December next year.

But high hopes among Janata Dal's supporters for a

realistic alternative to the dominant Congress (I) Party are starting to look premature.

The Congress (S) Party is one of a number of small factions which have dropped out. Its leader described the alliance as little more than "new wine in old bottles".

Leading figures in the other three parties are squabbling over whether the merger should have taken place. A legal ratification of the merger, which was supposed to have been completed last week, has not been executed.

"It's by no means certain whether the party can hold together and function in the national polls," Mr A.S. Abraham, executive editor of *The Hindustan Times*, said. "I would not rule out some further splinters."

Mr Singh, backed by the Chief Minister of Haryana, Mr Devi Lal, looks precarious

at the top, undermined by manoeuvrings by his rivals.

The party is also dogged by what its critics and even its former members say is an inability to produce an electoral platform distinguishable from that of its rival. "It's the same as Congress (I)," Mr V.N. Gadgil, a general secretary of the ruling party, said. "If there is a difference I can't see it."

The squabbling among opposition leaders is particularly frustrating for their supporters, who believe that Mr Gandhi has never been in a weaker position.

"I think Mr Gandhi feels that the longer the rope he gives them (the Janata Dal) the greater the chances are that they'll hang themselves with it," Mr Dilip Bobb, deputy editor of the current affairs magazine, *Indian Today*, said. The fortunes of Janata Dal,

while contributing to Mr Gandhi's decision on when to call the election, will be balanced by other factors. He will watch carefully how his party fares in state elections due in Tamil Nadu in January.

"There were bound to be hiccups," a Western analyst said. "Given the strong personalities at the head of each of the three parties, personality clashes and wrangling over power-sharing were inevitable. Whether or not they can mould themselves into a single party capable of contesting general elections remains to be seen."

● KAITAL: Six Sikh gunmen killed 20 people and wounded 40 in a 20-minute shooting spree in this Hindu town (AP reports). Kaital is in Haryana state, 12 miles south of the border with Punjab, where Sikh extremists have killed about 2,300 people this year.

Deng's reforms hit grain output

From Catherine Sampson, Peking

When Mr Deng Xiaoping decided to start his reform programme in the countryside in 1978 he unleashed the enthusiasm and energy of 80 per cent of the population, with startling results.

Ten years later, after the fourth successive disappointing grain harvest, the leadership is having to face up to the fact that the reforms are leading peasants away from growing grain to more profitable occupations, causing deepening anxiety in a country which aims politically and historically to be self-sufficient in grain.

On the front-page of the *People's Daily*, an impassioned editorial demanded that the policy of cooling down the economy to fight inflation should not be allowed to include a slowdown of agricultural growth.

Peasants have it in their

minds that "industry gets you money fast, agriculture gets you money slowly", and they do not pay enough attention to the importance of growing grain, the paper said.

Peasants have long complained that it is unprofitable for them to grow grain for the state, which pays them a low price for their produce.

In spite of small increases in purchase prices over the past year, one Chinese economist estimated this autumn that for every 100 kg of grain they sell to the state peasants make a loss of 20 yuan (about £3.30).

Peasants also claim that officials often downgrade their grain in an effort to lower the price further. Their costs are high because chemical fertilizers and pesticides have become more expensive and difficult to obtain.

A survey has revealed that 40 per cent of those ques-

tioned grew grain only to feed themselves and only 29 per cent identified growing grain as their main occupation.

Peasants have either been growing more profitable cash crops, such as cabbages, or moving off the land into the blossoming rural enterprises. These industries, as well as absorbing manpower, have encroached on arable land, a development that the State Land Administration is trying to halt.

China's leaders have said that the country must produce about 500 million tons of grain by the year 2,000 if China is to feed its ever-growing population. But after the record year of 1984 harvests have stabilized at about 400 million tons, or less.

The peasants' complaints about growing grain for the state have been even louder this year because nationwide

cash restrictions have led to local governments saying that they do not have money to pay the peasants.

The peasants have refused to take credit notes so the local governments will have to print money to pay for the crops — which will not help to reduce inflation.

Earlier this month, the Peking Agriculture Office said that more than half of the 1.9 million rural workers had moved into industries, leaving their land unproductive.

The response was to take back land contracted to households in 1978 and contract it out again in larger packages, giving those who had chosen to stay on the land more land to work with. This is typical of the gradual move away from household responsibility for land, towards a system of larger-scale farming which retains the contract system.

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Asians seek bigger role for UK

From Humphrey Hawksley, Singapore

Britain is facing increasing pressure from South-East Asia to take a more active role in the area and offset rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Concern has become particularly acute because Britain is seen as a friendly yet experienced power, but her foothold in the region will all but disappear in 1997 when Hong Kong is returned to China.

"It is too early for Great Britain to become little England," says Professor K.S. Sandhu, the director of the Institute of South-East Asian Studies in Singapore. "The British have been around for a long time. They have a feel for the area."

Professor Sandhu was one of several influential figures who met British envoys to the Far East and officials from London, including Lord Glenarthur, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, visiting Singapore last week. They were briefed on fears about long-term stability for South-East Asia.

The central issue is the uncertain future of the United States bases in the Philippines, but the question has been made even more salient because of a view

among some British officials that South-East Asia might prosper equally well without the security umbrella provided by the United States.

"That would be sheer folly," says Mr Leslie Fong, editor of the government-controlled *Straits Times*. "It might be a noble sentiment, but one cannot rule out the threat coming from the Russians and the Vietnamese."

The Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) acknowledges that the security provided by the bases has been an important factor in its economic success, but there has been criticism of the US handling of the Philippines base negotiations. This has led to a long-term concern that Washington might lose its influence in the Philippines.

Amid all this, it is unclear what role Britain can play, but Professor Sandhu argues that Britain could use its special relationship with the United States to point out the need for subtlety in dealing with South-East Asia. "Asian cultures are not loud, public cultures," he says. "You (the British) were not any less arrogant as a colonial power, but you

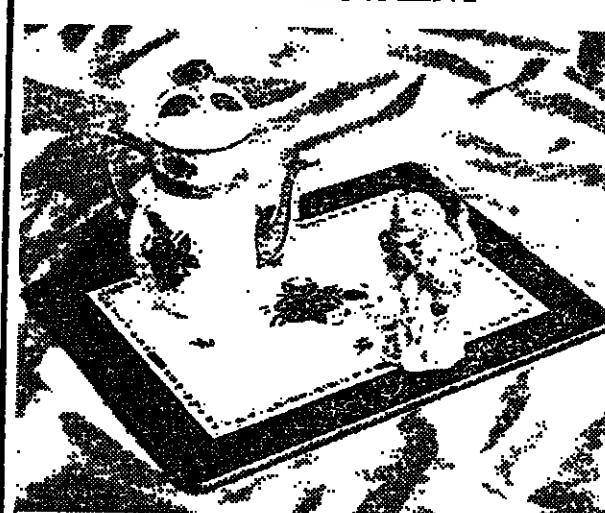
have had a tempering experience and have become much more humble as a nation. The Americans have not experienced this."

Britain has made a cautious and non-committal response so far. The Government makes it clear that 95 per cent of its defence forces will remain concentrated on Europe. Asean officials concede it is unlikely that British blood would be spilled under the Five Power Defence Arrangement drawn up in 1971 with Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Malaysia to defend the Malay peninsula.

Some analysts say, however, that for little cost Britain could build on her defence relationship with the oil-rich Asean member Brunei, and could increase her role in the Five Power Defence Arrangement which, to an extent, she is doing by negotiating a £1.5 billion arms deal to re-equip Malaysia's armed forces.

British officials are unclear whether any long-term policy has been devised on South-East Asia, although the Malaysian arms agreement indicates there is political muscle behind the sales pitch of commercial arms manufacturers.

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Christmas is a-coming in.... The realisation

If you think being assailed by Christmas advertisements and editorials is an enormous bore, with the "only x days to Christmas" message and bright and cheerful phrases attempting to persuade you that the same range of items you saw last year are miraculously different this, you should imagine what it is like to be told, just as you are leaving on a hastily organised and long-overdue late summer holiday, that the copy deadline for the article you have to write is due three days after your return.

If anything is calculated to put the blight upon mid-seventies sunshine, ripening haranas and mellow rojos, it is the thought that back in the UK every retail outlet you can think of is frenetically organising in the same way, at the same time, with the same merchandise, all the while loudly proclaiming their difference to their competitors.

To give some their due, a select number do achieve it, but they are few and far between. Back to work, how to make this article different, or am I caught in the same dilemma?

The article must be informative, present new ideas, give both reassurance and resolution. Which path shall I take? Irritably, I swipe at a persistent wasp, forgetting that in my other hand I am holding a two-thirds full cup of coffee.

This fellow Newton knew his onions! In exact reaction to the force of my

swing, a parabola of coffee droplets falls with devastating accuracy on the lady on the next table.

Hewn from stone, I sit anchored, mouth agape, but words still-born upon my lips.

Here it comes, the well-earned torrent of abuse, her gaze cuts deep, heightening my embarrassment. "Do you always introduce yourself like that?" Released by her words, I leap from my chair, proffering apologies, refuting evil intent, and promising compensation in a stream of semi-coherent mouthings.

Fortunately, she took control and, after sponging and wipings, we exchanged details in order that I might pick up the cleaning bill.

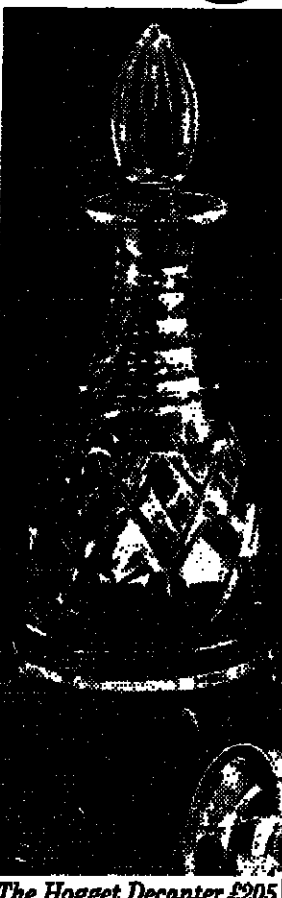
Her business card read "Buyer, Fortnum & Mason, 181 Piccadilly, London W1".

My equilibrium partially regained and my apologies accepted, I attempted to improve our relationship. "Such a job must be very interesting," I suggest, and without fully altruistic intentions follow up with "I expect you'll be thinking of Christmas now".

It works and I am treated to a full dissertation on how the buying cycle precedes the selling cycle by as much as six to nine months, and how Spring and next Easter are now receiving attention as far as she is concerned.

I question further and find that her buying responsibilities are not in Food, for which that redoubtable emporium is world-famous, but in other areas which frankly I had not appreciated received Fortnum & Mason's attention.

It seems that, apart from the unique Ground Floor Food Hall and the restaurants, Fortnum & Mason give an amazing



The Hogget Decanter £205

four floors to a wide range of departments which include Ladies', Men's and Children's Fashion, Stationery and Soft Toys, Leather and Gifts, China, Glass, Silver and a Cook Shop.

My amazement expressed, and ignorance revealed, the lady is determined that I be properly informed and I accordingly receive an invitation to visit the store and see for myself what I have been missing.

As a final challenge, she returns from her room with a copy of this year's Christmas Catalogue in demonstration of the points made, and as an hors d'oeuvre to the visit I have promised to make.

The immediate effect of the front cover is encouraging. Fortnum & Mason have escaped the hackneyed approach to Christmas and produced an artistic impression for your own interpretation.

The cover opens fully front and back to show a banquet table laden with an imaginative Arcadian feast dressed in baroque style. Fully detailed in one part, the remainder of the scene is vaguely sketched and toned, giving the misty impressions of ideas forming and coming into being.

When Christmas catalogues have, of necessity, to be issued in September to meet the needs of overseas customers, and allow time for overseas deliveries, such a cover does not antagonise the remainder of us who do not wish to

have the festive season thrust down our throats before Summer is ended. Once open, the first half of the catalogue, as might be expected, totally committed to demonstrating that fabulous range of foods and wines for which the company is rightly known.

"Hampers", a generic term that encompasses both the traditional wicker basket and the gift box, offers a gift to suit the pocket of a nabob or impoverished scrawler like myself. From £15 to around £1,500, the price range offers a unique quality and, if we are honest, no other name can demonstrate or express the care, respect, and generosity of the giver as that F&M logo.

It was the second half of the catalogue that was for my education and, here again, the Fortnum & Mason respect for individuality and uniqueness shows through: the same standards, the same attention to detail. Generally, the selection is

not frivolous, having in the main a useful purpose.

Christmas Crackers feature strongly with prices ranging from £10 to £300 for six crackers. They are uniquely designed each year to serve primarily as a table decoration, but then to offer a little fun.

The quality of the contents of a cracker is something I could never quite come to terms with. Fortnams use better-quality novelties, and when you visit the store, you see displayed the full range of contents before you purchase, so you need not be disappointed later. One hundred per cent hand-made, uniquely designed with quality papers, these crackers epitomise the fun side of Christmas with style and quality. The mottoes, still as outrageously "corny" as ever!

Soft toys with wistful, appealing eyes climb over miniature hand-made pine bunk beds and kitchen sets. Rabbits, cats, dogs and the ubiquitous Teddy Bear at prices ranging from £12 to £180.

Novelty, tradition and information play their part in this catalogue for on page 25 there is "The Hogget". To ensure no-one forgets his manners and "hogs" the Port, this decanter has a round bottom which makes it impossible to put down without its special coaster. The host has the coaster at the head of the table. Price £205.

Table Mat Sets with Herend designs to match the famous Hungarian porcelain is another tasteful touch. Table Mats £9.95 and £11.95 each. Herend figures from £40, can be selected from a good range of decorative and stylish gifts for the home.

Silver, and plated, items also exist and one piece that caught my eye was a Reproduction Victorian folding biscuit box that must set the scene on any tea table. £350.

My spirit consumed, appetite whetted, my resolve to accept the invitation confirmed, I look forward to the visit.

November 23 1988

PARLIAMENT

Bill will provide legal framework for security

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, outlining his proposals for putting the Security Service on a statutory basis, said that no security service could function effectively if its activities were subject to intensive public discussion.

Resuming the Commons debate on the Queen's Speech, he made clear the Government's desire to bring greater openness but he said that the Government would not reveal details of particular operations or activities.

He said that the Security Service had loyally and courageously helped to defend this country since the early years of the century. Indeed it was one of the bulwarks on which the country's continuing freedom depended.

"Our intention in introducing this Bill is to ensure that the service can continue to serve the nation well."

"We need a Security Service which can help to protect us from those who want to undermine our institutions and threaten our lives, whether for their own purposes or on behalf of others."

"Few people argue that this country should have no Security Service, but most say that no security service can function effectively if its activities are subject to intensive public discussion and debate."

"But in recent years there has been a degree of concern and some misunderstanding about the arrangements under which the Security Service operates."

"There has also been some concern that people who wish to complain about Security Service actions against them have no means to do so. This legislation will tackle these issues."

"We will be asking Parliament to reaffirm the principles on which the Security Service is established and the basis on which it works."

Parliament would also be invited to establish the extent of the Security Service's duties and obligations and be wanted Parliament to consider and confirm the principles of ministerial responsibility and accountability for the Security Service.

Parliament would also be asked to agree to provide for complaints to be investigated without vital secrets being revealed.

The legislation would give statutory authority for the continuation of the Security Service under the Secretary of State and would establish in law the functions of the Security Service within which it must operate.

It would also provide for the appointment of a Director General of the Security Service and

● No security service can function effectively if its activities are subject to intensive public discussion and debate ●

make him responsible in law for the continuing neutrality of the service.

The legislation proposed would provide the Secretary of State with power to authorize by warrant actions to obtain information from property only where he was satisfied that the information was likely to be of substantial value and assistance to the service in its functions and which could not reasonably be obtained by other means.

An independent commissioner would be appointed to keep under review the issuing of warrants and to make an annual report to the Prime Minister.

This report would be published, subject to security exceptions.

A tribunal would be established to receive and consider complaints. It would refer matters to the commissioner for adjudication. It would itself have specific powers of adjudication and redress and would be able to refer wider matters affecting the complaint to the commissioner.

The legislation would provide a remedy for aggrieved citizens outside the service who believed it might have done him or her some injury.

The Bill was the result of thorough consideration, taking account of the experience of legislation in other countries and following on from the structure provided by Parliament in the interception of Communications Act, used as a model because it had been shown to work.

Members had from time to time argued for a different approach under which Parliament itself would set up machinery of some kind for direct supervision of the Security Service.

That did not make good sense as it would either demolish the barrier of secrecy, essential to the working of the service, or it would try to straddle it, with predictably painful results.

"If the body knew all, it would know it could say little to the rest of Parliament without damaging results. If it knew little, it could say nothing with any conviction."

There had been a gap in the arrangements, not in accountability to the House, but in the absence of any way in which someone aggrieved by an action of the service could have that grievance independently investigated.

"Our proposals published today fill that gap."

The Government would be ready to explain its case for the legislation, but it would not

reveal details of particular Security Service operations or activities.

"This proposal will give Parliament an opportunity to provide a firm and explicit foundation for the continued work of the Security Service and for dealing with complaints."

"It will give members of the Security Service, as they want and deserve, a clear basis on which to operate which has been approved by Parliament."

"It will give the country confidence that the Security Service operates under authority and scrutiny, but with the proper degree of confidentiality which its work requires for the protection of us all."

The Government proposed to strip away the protection of the criminal law from a great mass of official information, however embarrassing that disclosure might be.

Budget secrets would no longer have that protection. Nor would a leaked paper from the Department of Social Security or a leaked letter from the Department of Education.

Where the protection of the criminal law was to be retained, the possibilities of prosecution would be circumscribed. In most cases there would be a test of harm, and in all cases a jury would decide.

The Labour Government had not proposed any defence based on public interest or prior publication. It had not gone nearly as far as this Government in providing a test of harm. Most striking of all, Labour had provided for the binding use of ministerial certificates so that, at the end of the day, a minister and not a jury decided.

The Official Secrets Bill would be published soon. The Government was making changes "in an open direction."

It had provided the staff of the security service with a statutory basis was



something which not even the most imaginative commentator had predicted.

The proposals of the Home Office were "an essay in openness which has no parallel in the history of our government since the war."

The Labour Party would make itself pretty ridiculous if it kept harping on about comparisons with its own record on the Official Secrets Act. It was a negative record.

Whatever the argument about the particulars, it would have to start from an acknowledgement that the Government was making a large and unprecedented thrust for greater openness in the areas which had been described.

He was anxious that the necessary concentration of effort on the Security Service and official secrets should not deflect the Home Office from what he regarded as the heart of its activities: Action against crime.

"Increasing freedom from crime, increasing freedom from the fear of crime, was a good which we would all wish for the people."

Latest statistics had shown that recorded crime was slightly down, but it was too soon to draw anything but fleeting comfort from this interruption in a 30-year trend.

"We can now realistically claim that crime prevention is beginning to affect the figures for good."

Some of the rise in violent crime was the result of a greater proportion of crime going onto the books. Many more women were reporting domestic violence and the police were treating those complaints more sympathetically.

He did not wish to sound complacent about the rise in violent crime and would like to see 1989 as a year in which the police, the courts, the public and the Government concentrated more on violent crime and also sustained the improvement in the amount of crime against property.

No one could be satisfied with the state of prisons which housed 50,000 in accommoda-

tion designed for 46,000. They had made strenuous efforts to remedy the areas of neglect. Spending had risen by 43 per cent in real terms since 1979, while £922 million was to be spent over the next three years. That would allow for provision of a further 3,000 places by 1992.

No one had spoken to in the Prison Service would welcome a return to the years of illusion when it was supposed that every prisoner could be reformed. But no prison officer worth his salt was content with a system where every prisoner was kept in a cell for all but one or two hours in the 24, without opportunity for education or work.

New Act more authoritarian than old says Hattersley

The new Official Secrets Act would in many ways be more authoritarian than the old, Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said when replying to the Home Secretary's speech.

"The veneer will be replaced, but underneath the wood will still be rotten."

He said that no Government this century had been more contemptuous of democracy, more determined to suppress criticism or more unscrupulous in manipulating the news. It was activated above all by the Prime Minister's authoritarian impulse "and that impulse is wholly alien to our system and our country."

He began by saying that it was, above all, a government's commitment to government on behalf of all people that made it truly representative and genuinely democratic.

It was because of its determination to stifle its critics and crush dissent that its legitimacy was in doubt.

"It chooses to govern, not on behalf of all people, but in the interests of the groups of people who, it hopes, will improve its prospects of re-election. A Government which cynically represents only some of the people cannot claim to be truly democratic or truly the champions of freedom."

"There is no area in which the Government confuses the real nature of freedom more blatantly than in its fraudulent promise to introduce what it wrongly describes as top-up loans for students."

The substitution of top-up loans for grants would reduce freedom by preventing those from low-income families from taking their proper place at university.

The Broadcasting White Paper would extend freedom - that of multinational communication conglomerates to monopolize independent broadcasters and reduce the standards of television broadcasting. That White Paper illustrated

the Government's misuse of the idea of choice. To make a genuine choice, the consumer must be given a number of real alternatives.

"Extra buttons on the television set which provide no more than the same tired old films, quiz shows and soap operas provide no extra choice at all."

The Opposition would support any measure that produced proper protection for children, and established the rights of the family and the child.

One of the reasons why the figure for crime in general had stabilized, as Mr Hurd boasted, was that fewer burglaries and break-ins were being reported. In vast areas of the country, they were taken for granted.

Responsibility for the terrifying increase in violent crime lay in part with the sort of society that the Government had helped to create. At one extreme, poverty, unemployment and deprivation; at the other,



Mr Hattersley: Underneath the wood will still be rotten

easy money and the encouragement to greed and selfishness.

The violence in home-county market towns had one cause. The violence in inner cities had another. In both cases, the Government had failed to deal

with the causes. It did not even attack the symptoms adequately.

Mr Hurd was handicapped by bone-headed backbenchers who believed that crime could be overcome only by increasingly severe penalties. The prisons in their present state bred rather than deterred crime.

The most blatant of all was electronic tagging whose theoretical intention was to reduce the prison population. It would do that only if offenders who would otherwise have been sent to prison were tagged instead.

"I don't believe that will happen - not least because on the evidence of the US tag is so unreliable. It would be used on minor offenders and add to their humiliation."

The Government liked to claim that it had increased the number of police officers. That raised a question: Why, if there were so many more police officers, was there so much more crime? What was now beyond doubt

was that because of Government double-talk the police were becoming bitter critics of the Conservative Party. Every police authority was now supporting every chief constable in applications for more officers.

The Police Federation estimated the shortfall at 10,000.

Identity cards for football matches would be unworkable and would only increase the prospects of riot and disorder outside football grounds.

Mr Colin Moynihan, Minister for Sport, on television last Monday had instigated the Government's disapproval of the new chairman of the Football League. In that he was typical of the Government's wish to intervene in everything and institute its own placement into positions of authority.

Mrs Thatcher was attempting to instigate Sir David English into the chairmanship of the new head of the Independent Television Commission would be a card-carrying Conservative,

probably a property dealer with the standards and values of Lord Young of Gifford.

The Opposition welcomed the intention to take powers to seize funds intended for terrorist organizations because that was a practical provision calculated to incapacitate terrorists. The general powers were more likely to help terrorists than to harm them by their cavalier disregard for civil liberties.

Mr Hurd had announced the intention to put the Security Service on a statutory basis. That was a small concession, but the Opposition welcomed it and, subject to detailed scrutiny, hoped to support it. But it was important to keep the concession in perspective.

The Security Service, as in other democracies, should be subject to the scrutiny of the Commons. It was the fantasy quality of their operations that had made the Security Service so ridiculous - tapping the telephones of trade unionists while promoting Soviet agents within its own ranks.

"Parliamentary control would help to bring the Security Service into the real world where it would operate with more efficiency as well as more respect for civil liberties."

Mr Hurd had confirmed that the new Official Secrets Act would be virtually in the form described in the White Paper.

"That means that, far from liberalizing our legislation, the new Bill will in some particulars provide the Government with greater powers to conceal and withhold information that is currently available. In many particulars the new Act will be more authoritarian than the old. The veneer will be replaced, but underneath the wood will still be rotten."

The proposals legitimized all the Government's recent excesses. *Spycatcher* would still be suppressed. There would be only one notable change: Clive Ponting, acquitted under the old law, would have been convicted under the new because it did not allow a public interest defence.

Labour MPs launch attack on Prime Minister and her press secretary

Labour MPs used recent press discussion of whether the Queen might visit the Soviet Union as a stick to beat Mr Bernard Ingham, the Prime Minister's chief press secretary, and Mrs Thatcher herself.

On a point of order, Mr Denis Skinner (Leicester, Lab) said that answering a question on July 7, 1981, Mrs Thatcher had said that the basis of advice to the Royal Family was confidentiality. Yesterday, the Prime Minister had said that the possible visit of the Queen to the Soviet Union was utterly hypothetical and had not been discussed.

Press reports during the past few days said that Mr Ingham had been explaining that the Prime Minister was giving advice through a kind of lobby system to tell the Queen not to go to the Soviet Union.

Who was telling the truth: the Prime Minister or Mr Ingham? Who did Mr Ingham work for? Did he work for himself or for the Prime Minister?

Maybe some people were not bothered about whether the Prime Minister misled members of the Opposition, but she should not mislead the Speaker. That was what was taking place.

If the Speaker was told that these matters were confidential when someone from Number 10 was briefing the press, then the Speaker was being misled.

Mr Alan Williams, an Opposition spokesman on Commons affairs, said that a 1981 ruling made clear that the basis of advice to the Royal Family was confidentiality. Under the constitution the Prime Minister was answerable to the Commons for the antics and utterances of her subordinates.

There had been a clear admission from Mr Ingham that he gave the briefing that led to

the embarrassing weekend headlines for the Royal Family.

"Can we have a statement from the Prime Minister explaining how she reconciles her statement and ruling in 1981 with the conduct of her most recent official press conference?" If she had changed the ruling insofar as it applied to her officials, then MPs would want a change in the ruling insofar as it applied to the Commons.

The Speaker said that Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the House, was in the chamber and would have heard what was said.

Owen criticizes freedom record

The Government's record on basic freedoms was attacked by Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP, when he spoke during the debate on the Queen's Speech.

He said that there had been a great deal of rhetoric and newspaper articles about the damage done to the freedom of democracy by this Government. It was true the Government had been extremely careless with a number of issues of basic freedom.

"The handling of GCHQ gave offence to many millions of people. Underlying it was the unadmitted belief that the mere effect of a being a member of a trade union meant you could not be trusted with the nation's secrets."

There had been many other examples. The sinking of the *Belgrano* in the Falklands was one. The decision to sink it had been justified on military grounds, but the refusal to come forward with the facts about it allowed people to believe that there was something more sinister about the Navy's decision.

The same was true over the Westland affair; that was much more the Prime Minister saving face. There were some alarming aspects about the way the confidential advice of the Attorney General could be used in a such a manipulative fashion.

The Government's record was not a good one. It made the country a laughing stock by

pursuing the *Spycatcher* affair through every twist and turn.

"When we discovered why it was being done, to cover up incompetence in the original pursuit of Mr Wright, many of us became deeply worried about the Government's intentions."

It had been a tradition of the House that on matters related to state security party politics were set aside and a consensus was achieved.

"If we have doubts, we give the benefit of the doubt to the Government. That principle appears to have been thrown away in recent months. We are in danger of losing something rather important in this House."

Ireland had gravely deteriorated. The signs were there of a loss of confidence in the system of justice and a considerable deterioration in the security situation.

Britain was dealing with one of the worst internal terrorist situations in the world. If terrorism was going to be grappled with effectively there would be restrictions of civil liberties and civil freedoms. It was a fool who believed you could grapple with this without doing so. Each step taken had to be examined with extreme care.

They owed a loyalty to the state, to the Monarch, to Parliament and the armed forces

Protests, but writ is moved

Despite protests from Labour MPs who urged a postponement, the writ was moved for the by-election at Epping Forest, formerly held for the Conservatives by the late Sir John Biggs-Davison.

Mr Tam Dalyell (Linlithgow, Lab) called for an explanation of why the writ had not been moved at Richmond, whose Conservative MP, Mr Leon Brittan, is to become a member of the EEC Commission.

He asked whether there was any difference in the treatment of by-elections caused by death, as in the case of Sir John, and those caused by an MP taking up a post in mid-term elsewhere, such as Lord Jenkins of Hillhead and Mr Matthew Parris.

"It is mighty odd, given recent political history, that the Richmond writ is not put forward and the Epping one is."

The timing, he said, was likely to do with the fact that Mr Brittan was not a proper person for the House to send to the European Commission.

Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the House, said that Mr Brittan was still an MP and to question a by-election rose in his case until such time as he ceased to be one.

Epping Forest by-election Dyed-in-wool Tories go to poll

By Martin Fletcher Political Reporter

The wealthy commuters of Theydon Bois in the Essex constituency of Epping Forest, formerly held for the Conservatives by the late Sir John Biggs-Davison, are to preserve an old-world village atmosphere.

That is the sort of place it is. By and large that is the sort of constituency it is.

Needless to say it has been dyed-in-the-wool Tory ever since Sir Winston Churchill, the local MP, left the Liberals and rejoined the Conservatives in the mid-1920s.

Sir John Biggs-Davison, whose death has caused the contest, won a 21,513 majority at the last election, his party's fifteenth largest in the country.

The Epping Forest District Council is overwhelmingly Tory. The constituency of London's north east borders is ringed by half a dozen other Tory constituencies, including Mr Norman Tebbit's Chingford.

Although criss-crossed by the M11 and the A25 and containing large GLC overspill estates in Loughton and Waltham Abbey, much of the constituency consists of affluent dormitory villages in rural surroundings where the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Budget tax cuts



Mr Norris: Co-ordinates voluntary crime prevention

have been far outweighed by subsequent rises in mortgage rates.

It also has swathes of Green Belt and rural land which local people are determined to protect from the ravages of developers; and in the much loved Forest itself the oaks and beeches are said to be suffering badly from atmospheric pollution.

More specifically local issues include the lack of investment in the Central Line, the link with the thousands of Epping Forest commuters; the rationalization and closure of local National Health Service hospitals; and an increasing rate of violent crime. Unemployment is negligible.

For Labour, the by-election will be a key test of the party's ability to regain ground in the affluent South with its new campaigning line that the Government is destroying the quality of life.

The Democrats and Dr David Owen's SDP will again be fighting each other. The former is intent on rousing the latter so heavily that it will establish itself as the only credible centre party.

The Conservative candidate is Mr Steven Norris, MP for Oxford East from 1983 until last year.

He is 43 and married with two children. He is the only candidate who does not live in the constituency, but has promised to make his home there if elected.

At the request of Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, he has recently set up Crime Concern, a body to co-ordinate voluntary crime prevention efforts, headed by the Grant Mainwaring Schools Trust.

The Labour candidate is Mr Stephen Murray, the son of the former TUC general secretary, Mr Len Murray. He is a 29-year-old teacher who lives in the constituency, fought it at the last general election, and leads the Labour group on the council.

The Democrats are putting up Mr Andrew Thompson, age 40, a merchant banker who was raised in the constituency. He was the old Alliance's first seat on the council in 1984, but did not stand again last May.

The Social Democrat is Mr Michael Pettman, aged 38 and a solicitor in London, the sole SDP councillor on the local council and a founder member of the party. General election: Sir John Biggs-Davison (C), 31,536; A. Humphris (SDP All), 10,023; S. Murray (Lab), 9,499; R. Denhard (Green), 695. C majority: 21,513.

'Prove your commitment' challenge to Thatcher

By Nicholas Wood Political Correspondent

Mr Paddy Ashdown challenged the Prime Minister yesterday to demonstrate the strength of her commitment to the environment.

He unveiled measures which, he said, the Government could take almost immediately to promote the green cause.

The Democrat leader, who has written to Mrs Margaret Thatcher outlining his proposals, rejected the Government's claim that its water privatization legislation amounted to an important advance in environmental protection and demonstrated its determination to follow words with action.

He said yesterday that, with all the political parties battling for the "green crown", the Government was vulnerable because it had failed in the Queen's Speech to live up to the claims the Prime Minister had made.

The Democrat measures, detailed in 21 Commons motions, include: ● Environment: End dumping of sewage sludge in North Sea; create one pollution control inspectorate with greater powers and more money; ensure that waste disposal site operators



Mr Ashdown: Rejects the Government's case

tial in favour of unleaded petrol, ban two-star petrol.

● Education and science: Make environmental awareness part of the national curriculum; increase research on areas such as the ozone layer, the greenhouse effect, the seas.

● Employment: Use training schemes to promote work on environmental improvement.

● Energy: Set targets for energy savings; increase research on renewable forms of power; cut sulphur emissions from coal-fired power stations by 30 per cent, with a commitment to 60 per cent when technically feasible.

● Agriculture: Ban pesticides within water protection zones; support organic farming and reduce nitrogen use.

● Foreign affairs and overseas aid: Agree an international ban on shipment of hazardous waste to the Third World; independent environmental evaluation of all UK aid projects.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Continuation of debate on the Queen's Speech (social security and employment). Lords (3): Continuation of debate on the Queen's Speech (home and social affairs).

TIMBERLAND PRESENTS A RANGE OF THE MOST REPELLENT SHOES EVER MADE.

Up in Vermont, the wet weather starts in early October, turns to snow and stays around until April. Sometimes May.

Chicago may be the Windy City but it's had some of the biggest snowfalls of the last decade. 16½ inches in one night in 1983.

Even sunny California became rainy California in 1986 when 8 inches of rain fell in a matter of days.

The fact is, the average American has to live with an annual average snow and rainfall of approximately 32 inches.

How does he protect himself against this onslaught?

Well, when it comes to footwear, more often than not, he relies on a decidedly un-average company called Timberland.

And while the name is rightly associated with old-fashioned craftsmanship, we've recently introduced an Ultra Light range. Shoes and boots which are guaranteed 100% waterproof, courtesy of the very latest technology.

For instance, to save the soles we use a dual-density polyurethane. Or another extremely hardwearing substance called Vibram EVA.

Both materials are about half the weight of traditional rubber lug soles, yet just as tough and resistant.

Gore-Tex is another man-made material we put our faith in.

This remarkable fabric has 9 billion pores per square inch, each one 20,000 times smaller than a raindrop but 700 times larger than a molecule of perspiration.

Perfect credentials for the job of lining our shoes, providing extra waterproofing while allowing your feet to breathe.

Obviously, we don't restrict the use of advanced technology to repelling water.

As skiers will know, a plastic ski boot will keep your feet dry, yet it's how warm your toes are which is the test of a good boot.

With this in mind, Timberland boots are insulated with Thinsulate in the tongue, shaft and quarter and Ensolite around the toes. And then tested at sub-zero temperatures.

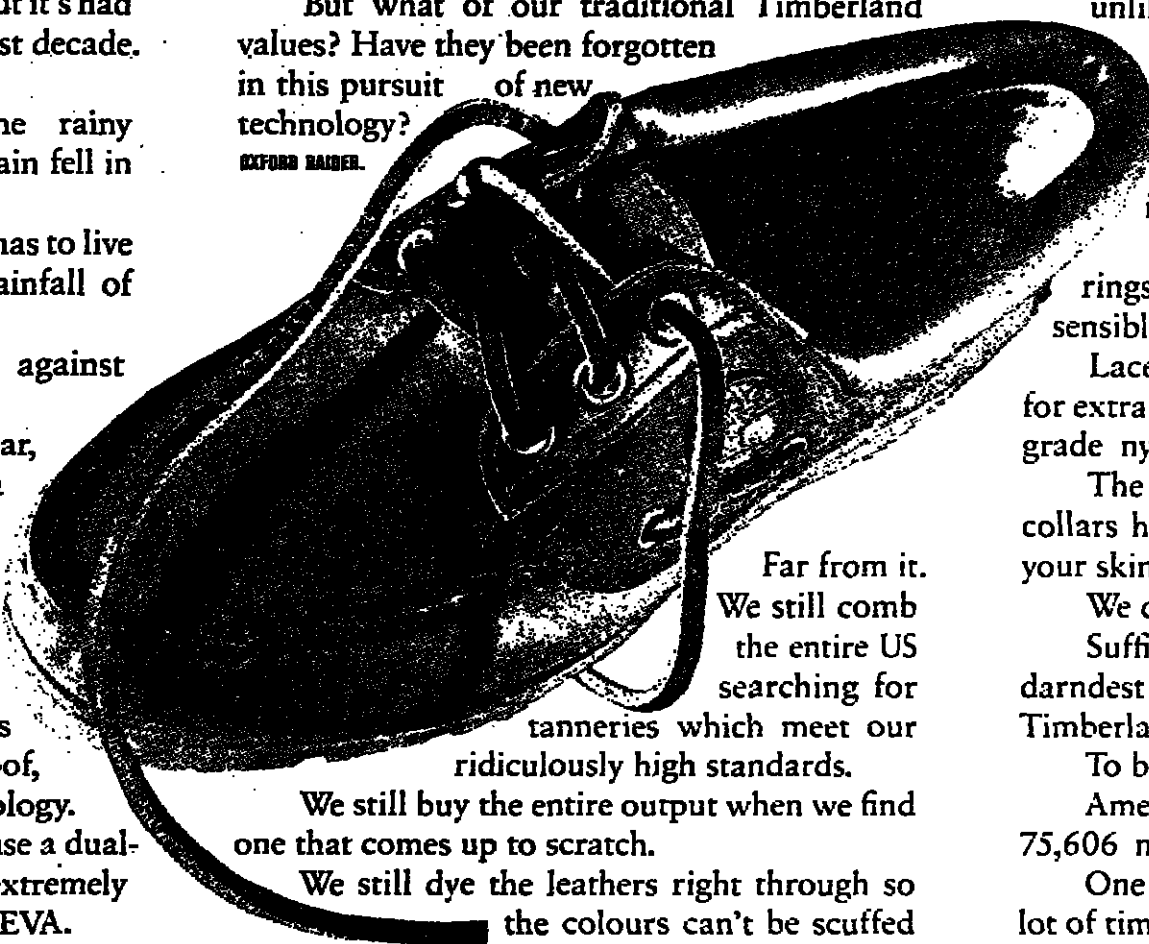
Indeed so confident are we that we can protect your feet in the worst conditions known to man, that we sponsor the Iditarod, generally acknowledged to be the last great race on earth.

This 1,049 mile dog-sled race is from

Anchorage to Nome in the frozen Alaskan wilderness. (Wear the wrong boots out there, and you could end up as dog food.)

But what of our traditional Timberland values? Have they been forgotten in this pursuit of new technology?

OXFORD SHOES.



Far from it. We still comb the entire US searching for tanneries which meet our ridiculously high standards.

We still buy the entire output when we find one that comes up to scratch.

We still dye the leathers right through so the colours can't be scuffed off, even after years of regular use.

And we still waterproof our leathers by impregnating them with silicone oils.

We also subject them to a machine called a Maser Flex, which tests waterproof leathers. Ours have to withstand 15,000 flexes, equal to the highest standards demanded by the US Military.

Then the old boys in our famous Hampton workshops go to work.

They mould each leather by hand on a specially-developed geometric last.

Pre-stretching them stops the leather cracking and has the effect of breaking in the shoes before you wear them.

(Please note: when you buy a pair of Timberlands, get exactly the right size. Unlike other makes, the leathers in our boots and shoes don't stretch with wear.)

As well as being hand-stretched, our Ultra Light shoes are also hand-sewn.

There are machines that can do this job, but we won't have any truck with them.

Because even though they can sew faster and cheaper, they can't sew better than an experienced hand or a set of nimble fingers.

Each shoe is sewn with high strength nylon yarn using a double knot, pearl stitch which will not come undone even if it's cut or in the unlikely event that it breaks.

The seams are then sealed with not one but two coats of latex to stop water sneaking in the needle holes.

In a complex world, we see virtue in simplicity.

Eyelets are made from solid brass. D-rings from stainless steel. For the eminently sensible reason that neither rusts.

Laces are made from self-oiling rawhide for extra flexibility and longer life. Or premium grade nylon when greater strength is needed.

The glove leather linings and soft padded collars hold the feet firmly in place to prevent your skin being chafed.

We could go on.

Suffice it to say, that at Hampton we do our darndest to make sure that every part of every Timberland boot and shoe functions properly.

To be honest, we don't have a choice.

America has 12,383 miles of coast line. 75,606 miles of river. And over 10,000 lakes.

One way or another, people spend an awful lot of time in or around the water.

Naturally, a lot of big shoe manufacturers would like their business.

How can a small company like Timberland compete with them? How can we possibly continue to make our shoes and boots more attractive than everyone else's?

There is only one way. We'll just have to keep making them more and more repellent. Timberland Shoes and Boots, 23 Pembridge Square, London W2. Telephone 01-727 2519.



RAIDER CHUKKA.
OXFORD.
OXFORD BUCKLER.

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SPECTRUM

Return of the economics wizard

THE TIMES
PROFILE

SIR ALAN WALTERS

The point at which Thatcherism defined itself as something unlike all we had been used to in British politics came long before the miners' strike, and even before the Falklands war. It was Sir Geoffrey Howe's Budget of 1981. At that point the Government seemed trapped between a dogma of monetary control which forbade the lowering of interest rates, and a pound sent soaring by those high interest rates to levels where it threatened to price British industry out of world markets.

"It was a time that felt very much like D-Day," says Sir John Hoskyns, now director general of the Institute of Directors, but then head of the Prime Minister's Downing Street policy unit. "All the time we were wondering whether we were going to have a bridgehead by nightfall, or were we being slowly rolled back into the sea by the force of events."

The Budget was seen in Downing Street as the act that secured the bridgehead. It was flexible where policy had seemed to be rigidly locked, and inflexible where observers had assumed that compromise had become inevitable. Signs of economic recovery (though not of falling employment) began to appear almost from that moment. For better or worse, it set its mark on the whole future of the economy and on the psychology of the administration. Alan Walters was the adviser who gave that Budget its ideological sanction. His impeccable monetarist credentials enabled him to persuade Mrs Thatcher that it would be no betrayal of principle to disregard the indicators which had ruled out the lowering of interest rates. He stiffened her resolve not to resort to the same pattern of refutation as previous governments had done.

"Alan tends to get slightly carried away in a media context," says Hoskyns. "He is a little inclined to say that the Budget was all his doing, which is absolutely untrue. There were a lot of other people telling her: 'Don't listen to the Treasury officials' - Nigel Lawson for one. I've no doubt. But Alan was the one able to produce all the technocratic arguments for why this kind of thing had to be done."

Sir Alan Walters returns to Downing Street next year to resume his backroom role as full-time adviser, in the aftermath of another row over interest rates. But in last summer's highly public disagreement with Nigel Lawson, he was on the other side, arguing (against the Chancellor and the prevailing orthodoxy) that interest rates should go up.

The reversal is a reminder that the world he will be returning to is not the same as the one he left five years ago. But already most commentators seem to agree that once again he has been proved right. The habit of being proved right, and of being infuriatingly cocky over it, is one his detractors find hardest to forgive.

He is as cocky as ever. In his study in Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, this week, he was chortling over the prospect of returning to work with Mrs Thatcher, for whom he never ceases to proclaim his admiration and affection. "Who can resist a date with a blonde?" he asks. "She always wanted me to come back. By God, I've been lucky, haven't I?"

Luckier than he deserves, his detractors would say. He is rare among economists in being prepared to chance his arm by putting on record exactly what results he expects to follow from particular acts of strategic policy. On at least three major occasions he appears to have hit the nail on the head with uncanny accuracy. Before 1981 and 1988, he was an adviser to Edward Heath's Government (an unhappy experience) and predicted with great precision what disastrous results would follow from Heath's dash for growth.

"Naturally I regard Alan as misguided, though he is certainly very bright and early in his career he did some very good work," says Professor Frank Hahn, under whom Sir Alan studied long ago at the University of Birmingham, and who was one of the 364 signatories of the famous 1981 letter to *The Times* in which almost the entire British economic establishment declared that the Walters Budget would plunge Britain into ruin and social upheaval.

"All this time we have been beneficiaries of the enormously Keynesian policies President Reagan has followed," Hahn says.



Sir Alan and his wife Paddie: he left Downing Street after the 1983 election victory for her sake; he is not asking her to uproot herself again

"Now that the US is getting into trouble, our economy may well get into a tizzy."

Hahn is a theoretician, not an economist of the arm-chancing kind. "Alan asked me once to call in at Downing Street to discuss some points. He listened to all my theoretical points and then he said: 'These are all toys!'"

It is this active and bold regard for the consequences of action which Mrs Thatcher finds stimulating. The attraction is mutual. "There's a lot of what-hang quick-fire argument with her," Sir Alan says. "I love that, too. Contrary to what many say about her, I find that she is a politician who is very interested in ideas."

The passage of time has been kind to him. With his sandy hair turning to grey, bony six-foot frame and deeply-lined, thin-lipped face, he used to look drawn and spare. But his zest for life and

argument, and his unflagging efforts to keep in physical trim with jogging and tennis even in Washington's enervating climate, have left him looking younger than his 62 years. His blue eyes twinkle in deep hollows.

Like many dynamos of the new right, he did not come to his opinions from a background of ease and privilege. He was born in a slum to working-class parents a month after the collapse of the General Strike. His father was a Communist, though not so blinkered a comrade as to stay in the party long after Stalin showed his true colours. The family lived in Leicester, and Leicester is imprinted on the professor's voice to this day.

The young Walters failed his 11-plus (arithmetic was his downfall), worked as an errand-boy and machine-minder and joined up at 17 in 1943. Thanks to a combination of hard work and perceptive teachers, he found his way into the

local extension college, gained an outstanding degree in statistics and won a teaching post in Birmingham, where he studied under Hahn. He has paid tribute to Hahn's "Talmudic delight in following through an argument wherever it might lead."

He became one of the foremost proponents of cost-benefit analysis. This procedure enabled him to demonstrate snappily that it would be cheaper for British Rail to give a Rolls-Royce, a chauffeur and a lifetime's supply of petrol to all users of a certain threatened line than it would be to keep it open. But the same analysis gave less clear-cut answers when, as a member of the 1968 Roskill commission, he applied it to the potential gains and disruptions of building the third London Airport.

Returning to Britain next year means some private sacrifice, though it is hard to believe that he hesitated long over the dilemma. His wife, Paddie (his second wife, Yorkshire born of Irish stock, and 20 years his junior), finds London stuffy, while he finds Washington provincial ("there's not much of a literary scene and the theatre's dreadful"). She does not want to leave her job as personnel manager with a company in the Virginia suburbs of Washington. It was for her sake that he tore himself away from Downing Street after the election victory in 1983. This time he is not asking her to uproot herself again. He plans to spend half his time in London and half at their Victorian house in Georgetown. In a sense, he has never been away. He remained on the Downing Street payroll as a part-time adviser after 1983, and dropped in frequently for chats, to stiffen the Government's monetarist sinews and, it is hinted, to restrain Mrs Thatcher's impulses to shoot from the hip. But there is a difference between passing through and being fully

engrossed in the everyday business of the Whitehall village. The much-publicized clash with Lawson in the summer started him off on the wrong foot diplomatically, and means that he will have a lot of fence-mending to do at the outset.

Press treatment of that incident rankles with him: he says that he even contemplated a libel action against one London newspaper and the "scombro" who wrote the story. Hoskyns says: "Paradoxically, I think his return may be exactly what Nigel wants. Alan pulls no punches, but he's not a hothead. If he'd been really part of the system when this interest rates problem came up, he'd have said: 'Let's have a punch-up in the study of Number 10 and settle this - but for God's sake let's not breathe a word of it outside.' The three of them work better together at close quarters."

BIOGRAPHY

- 1926: Born in Leicester; father a clerk in a grocery shop
- 1943-6: Served as private in the Army; later attained economics degree in University College, Leicester
- 1951: Postgraduate posts at Oxford and Birmingham
- 1958: Visiting Professor of Economics, Northwestern University, United States
- 1961: Professor at Birmingham
- 1968: Cassel Professor at London School of Economics
- 1968-72: Member, Roskill Commission on Third London Airport
- 1971-4: Part-time adviser in Cabinet Office
- 1978: Professor, Johns Hopkins University, US
- 1981-3: Full-time adviser to the Prime Minister (part-time since)
- 1988: To return to Downing Street on full-time basis

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Lawson may not see the matter quite in this light. The return of Sir Alan may impel him to make the escape into the City that has often been predicted. For his part, Sir Alan may find Whitehall less tolerant of opinionated outsiders than it was at the time of crisis eight years ago. Not a few will be looking forward to seeing him change his arm again, and perhaps losing it this time. But he is looking forward to his second spell in the furnace of politics with undiminished gusto to see his ideas tested in the only laboratory of economics that really counts.

George Hill and Charles Bremner

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At risk: Edwin Landseer's "God Proposes, Man Disposes"

Up for sale?

artfile



A weekly
look at
the
art world

Sarah Jane Checkland

The furore over Hereford Cathedral's Mappa Mundi has overshadowed the risk to another of our art treasures - a collection of Victorian paintings given by the industrialist Thomas Holloway to the ladies' college bearing his name. Holloway College, recently merged with London University's Bedford College, faces a £1 million budget deficit. For a solution, the college council are turning to its only moveable assets: the paintings.

Thomas Holloway set up the college in the 1880s. Paying outlandish prices, he bought some of the most famous images of the period, such as "The Princes in the Tower" by Millais; Frith's "The Railway Station" (a crowded platform at Paddington); and Edwin Landseer's "God proposes, Man disposes", showing two bears tearing apart the remains of a Polar expedition.

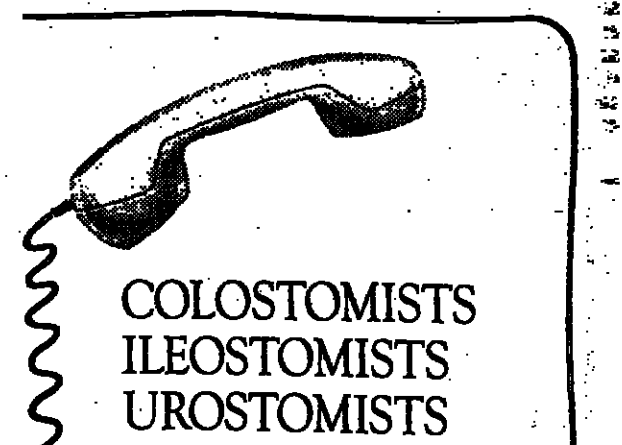
The collection is an extraordinary reflection of Victorian taste: some works are cautionary (Frank Holl's "Newgate committed for trial"), while some are sentimental (Erskine Nicol's "The Missing Boat"). In Edward Long's "Babylonian Marriage Market", pornography masquerades as archaeology. The 79 paintings were displayed on a high-vaulted hall in the college at Egham, Surrey (based on the French chateau of Chambord, near Orleans, and now Grade One listed); but Thomas Holloway's vision is now much reduced. His corridors are down at heel, his chapel shabby and cobwebbed.

The principal of what is now Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, Professor Dorothy Wedderburn, said: "Had we had level funding, as was promised, we would have managed to bal-

ance the books. But instead we have had a real reduction of resources since 1983."

The implications of the sale are immense. There is the betrayal of the benefactor, and the fear that future Thomas Holloways will change their minds. Another risk is that, were the college to start selling, they would let the Government off the hook, and other such benefactors, like the Ashmolean at Oxford (desperately in need of £2.2 million) might have to consider similar action.

Both Hereford Cathedral and the Royal Holloway appear to be in a growing group: institutions that have nothing to do with art and heritage but who are saddled with responsibility for precious objects. It seems clear that funding should be found to transfer artefacts of national importance into the ownership of government heritage bodies. An obvious model would be for the National Heritage Memorial Fund to finance the purchase, and for English Heritage, with its experience of maintaining collections throughout London, to appoint specialist curators to manage and market them as attractions without removing from their rightful home. Professor Wedderburn would be delighted with this solution.

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BUPA

Victoria McKee reports on the new trend

"The only good thing is that if you survive, and remove the stimulus, the tobacco, the probability is that it won't happen again. More young women are having heart attacks because

Professor Cary Cooper, of the University of Manchester's Institute of Science and Technology, goes further: A world authority on stress and heart disease, and author of *Living With Stress* (Penguin, £4.95), the American-born Cooper says: "Women used to be more prone to neuroses when they were frustrated by being at home. Now that they are going out to work, and raising a family, their mental health problems are decreasing but they are starting to get 'male' diseases like heart disease."

Evidence from the United States shows that heart disease rates among working women with children are

"Risk factors" she says, "include cigarettes, lipid abnormalities and, at very young ages, a family history. For women, work outside the home is not associated with increased risk, but excess body fat is – particularly if it is distributed around the waist in a 'masculine' way so that the waist to hip ratio is high. This fat distribution is adversely linked with diabetes and hypertension, both of which cause women to lose their natural advantage, before menopause, over men where heart disease is concerned."

Cooper cites a young woman who resists to her doctor complaining of vaginitis and was told, "you can't

As Thomas raced around the house, he demonstrated one great advantage of mini-mumps over the proper disease, the child is perfectly well in himself and can continue with school. The swelling subsides more quickly than in mumps and often affects only one side of the face. Mini-mumps starts between the 14th and 25th day after vaccination. Any swelling before the 14th day is probably because the injection has had time to take effect; if swelling

The Charing Cross regime has been remarkably successful in healing the ulcers of up to 70 patients per week who attend their ulcer clinic. The staff clean the wound, and cover it with a very porous, non-adherent dressing. Then, instead of bandaging the leg with an old-style elastic bandage, they apply three layers of compression bandage, each layer composed of a light-weight bandage of varying elasticity.

as just one of the many penalties of growing older. When the thin, brown-stained skin split to give rise to a wide shallow ulcer, the only remedy was to bind the leg with a crêpe bandage which had to be removed and washed daily.

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TIMES DIARY

ALAN COREN

Though loath as any other back to circumscribe my tawdry, I nevertheless feel it would be unfair not to point out that most of today's column will be of interest only to readers keen on touring Mars by balloon. Even Professor Carl Sagan, who has urged me to pass his thrilling invitation on, would not, I'm sure, wish to fritter the valuable time of those who prefer to think of stars as something to look up at, rather than down from.

The professor wrote to me from Pasadena on Monday, in his awesome capacity as President of the Planetary Society. "Dear Fellow Citizen of the Planet Earth," he began — a refreshing change, I might say, from the vocative style of my other Monday correspondents, North Thames Gas and HM Customs and Excise, in whom a little cordial fraternity would not come amiss — "The Planetary Society is dedicated to the exploration of the solar system by spacecraft, and the quest for extraterrestrial life and intelligence. Please take a few moments to read the enclosed letter from our Executive Director, Dr Louis Friedman."

How could I not? Especially as Dr Friedman began "Dear Friend". To the Executive Director, I am more even than a fellow Earthling. He likes me.

"Dear Friend, As someone lured by the immense complexity of the universe, you may now realize that humankind is about to enter a new generation of space travel."

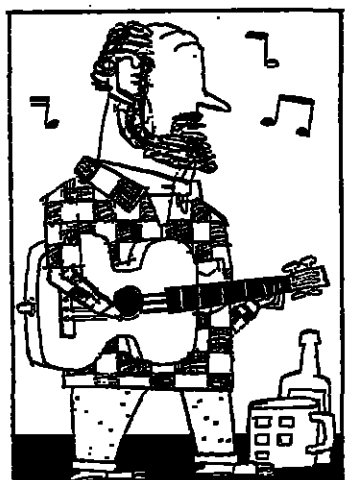
My neck hairs rose. How on earth — as it were — did Dr Friedman know that I was lured by the immense complexity of the universe? Not everyone is. I have heard of people who, when shown how a pea moves round an orange, or possibly vice-versa, every — was it 24 hours? — found their attention wandering. What mysterious force had persuaded my new friend Dr Friedman that I counted myself something of a buff in such matters?

Rapt, I read on, and exhilarating stuff it was. Although Dr Friedman charmingly confessed "No, I can't reserve for you a spot on a planetary mission... yet", his revelation that the society was already designing a balloon to be used on Mars held out such hope of imminent interplanetary adventures as to make the pitch, when it inevitably came, nugatory: an annual subscription of less than £20, to ensure by return a smart membership card which will unquestionably allow one to shove to the front of the queue when the midnight choo-choo leaves for Aldebaran.

Little wonder that President Sagan exhorted me to spread the word! Why, he even included my acceptance letter, neatly typeset, and pitched at exactly the level of discreet gratitude I myself would have chosen. "Thank you, Carl Sagan," my letter replied, "for inviting me to join you for this new age of space exploration — the exploration of our solar system and beyond, and the search for extraterrestrial intelligence. My \$30 payment is enclosed."

I hesitated over signing it, mind: it was the "and beyond" which gave me pause. I am as keen as the next man to shell out thirty bucks for the chance to stroll Pluto, but a commitment to ballooning through Deep Space with only a Pasadena credit reference as my passport is a risk I do not feel ready to take. Intelligent extraterrestrial life there may well be, but what guarantee is there that they believe in Carl Sagan?

BARRY FANTONI



"You pass 16 Bills, what do you get — another day older and deeper in debt..."

Wiser, perhaps, to invest in a hired spruce? Since one is so rarely offered the choice between intergalactic tourism and tree-rental, a letter received on Tuesday from Bill & Ben's Greenhouse, 385 Euston Road, proved more than usually impermissible. Despite eschewing their endearing obnoxious-doblab mode of yesterday, Bill and Ben still succeeded in leaving the brain in ruins.

"We attach two photographs of the Christmas tree special we are offering this Yuletide. Unfortunately, the photographs are of a nasty artificial tree which is not to be compared with the Abies Normanniana (Buxty, Norwegian, non-needle-drooping tree) which we shall provide. However, you do get an idea of the effect the decorations will create. These are top quality, all the way from the U.S. of A. including hand-painted baubles with wooden novelties."

All the way from Pasadena, was my first suspicious thought, designed to look a treat in the corner of the balloon as Professor Sagan and I traversed Mars, wassailing. But no: this tree was not for keeping, it was for hire. Bill and Ben, their billet-doux continued, would "supply a fully-decked 6-foot tree to one of three themes, namely Love Geese (blue and silver), Naughty Teddy (green and gold), and See-Thru Glass (silver and white). We hope to deliver all trees by the end of the first week of December, inclusive of smart stand and drinking water. Trees and decorations will be collected at the beginning of January. You pay us £125."

Or don't. Even with drinking-water thrown in, £125 strikes me as a bit steep for hiring a 6-foot Norwegian tree. I would expect to hire a 6-foot Norwegian for that, just the thing for seeing Yuletide drunks off the premises, keeping the front path snowless, and mopping up any turkey riotous still hanging about on Twelfth Night. He wouldn't have Love Geese or Naughty Teddies hanging on him, of course, but there's a bright side to everything.

At last Nicholas Ridley has said in public what he has been saying in private ever since he took over as Secretary of State for the Environment. Let Britain's ancestral homes be sold off to new millionaires if their traditional owners can no longer afford to maintain them. But this of course has been happening for years. You have only to look at the weekly property advertisements in *Country Life* to see a continuous parade of fine houses being sold.

The problem Mr Ridley fails to address is what happens to those houses which have really important contents. Among houses that have been saved intact for the nation in recent years some like Kedleston in Derbyshire and Belton in Lincolnshire have long been open to the public. Others like Fyvie in Aberdeenshire or Calke in Derbyshire have been virtually unknown.

When owners of such houses have decided they can no longer continue, they are often willing to be flexible and generous — perhaps giving the house or some furniture as part of a National Trust package, or loaning pictures back to the house. But it is absolutely naive to suggest that many, if any, will offer houses with their contents

to Mr Ridley's new millionaires. Either they will want to keep the paintings and antiques in the family, or they will send them to auction themselves where they will certainly raise far more money than they would ever fetch if sold in a single lot.

Mr Ridley's memory is indeed short. For precisely what he is proposing happened at the noble Elizabethan house of Littlecote in Wiltshire. Sir Seton Wills had decided he could no longer maintain both house and estate and went out of his way to find a new owner willing to acquire both house and contents and continue to open them to the public.

He found what seemed to be the perfect owner, the millionaire entrepreneur Peter de Savary. But shortly after Mr de Savary sent the entire contents of the house for auction. The great Cromwellian armoury, unique of its kind, was rescued only at the last minute by the Tower

Armouries with help from the National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF).

There is another well-known example on Mr Ridley's doorstep. His predecessor, Michael Heseltine, decided that Heveningham Hall in Suffolk, acquired for the nation in 1970 to prevent its break-up, was a prime candidate for privatization. It was sold to one of Mr Ridley's "modern millionaires", but in 1984 the last week was gutted by fire and last week the owner's agents declined to give the local authority any assurance of when restoration would begin.

Apart from a month in 1987 the house has not been open to the public — one of the conditions of sale — and English Heritage has withdrawn all the furniture for safe keeping after a magnificent chandelier crashed to the floor and the legs of the Wyatt sideboards were snapped off to make them easier to move. The most immediate concern

arising from Mr Ridley's speech is the future of Broadworth Hall near Doncaster. Some years ago the historian, Mark Girouard, wrote that "of all the Victorian country houses known to me this is the least altered and most evocative of its period. It was built, decorated and landscaped within a decade and everything is still there."

For years the break-up of Broadworth seemed almost inevitable but now English Heritage is well on the way to negotiating its acquisition intact for the nation. It could not have wished for more goodwill and co-operation from the owners. But English Heritage needs Mr Ridley's permission to acquire the house. Is his speech to be taken as a reason for his failure so far to respond?

Mr Ridley's statement that the Government should not give permanent guarantees that families should live in their houses for ever implies that it now gives

such guarantees. It does not. What governments have done for 15 years is to encourage owners to open their houses and invest in their maintenance by granting exemptions from capital taxes. As a result, virtually every great house in the country is now open to the public on a regular basis and houses such as Drumlanrig and Stratfield Saye have opened their doors for the first time.

Mr Ridley says he has asked English Heritage to "look flexibly at alternatives to traditional state ownership or guardianship". In fact, English Heritage owns only a handful of furnished houses. Its main responsibility is for ruined castles and abbeys which Mr Ridley stresses he is not talking about.

Yet already great houses such as Chatsworth and Burghley, Arundel Castle and Leeds Castle have been placed by their owners in private charitable trusts. The NHMF has helped establish

such a trust at Thirlestane Hall, Lauder, and most recently at Paxton Hall in Berkshire, a splendid Adam house belonging to the Labour MP John Home Robertson. Such trusts help to maintain the family connection which Mr Ridley says is so important for the public's enjoyment.

He gives at the National Trust as "a system of outdoor relief for the aristocracy". It is true that the National Trust's country house scheme was devised to allow owners to continue to live in part of their houses, preventing the houses becoming the mansions Mr Ridley derides. Yet most recent acquisitions have come to the Trust because there is no family left to care for them.

Mr Ridley's speech offers confusing signals. He reaffirms that the Government is there as a long stop but appears to be discouraging the NHMF and English Heritage from intervening to save great houses threatened with break-up in the future. The glory of Britain's country houses is that they still retain furniture and works of art commissioned or collected for them. All this Mr Ridley puts needlessly at risk.

The author is president of SAVE Britain's Heritage.

Marcus Binney on the pitfalls of privatized stately homes

Ridley's bad house-keeping

Bernard Levin

A very modest proposal

I have been worrying about an incident that took place in South Africa a few weeks ago. The facts are clear, and are briefly stated. A black labourer named Eric Sambo, driving a car, accidentally hit and killed two dogs belonging to a local Afrikaans farmer, called Jacobus Voster. (Some reports spell it Vorster.) Mr Voster seized the man, dragged him on to his premises and spent the next two days whipping and torturing him to death.

Mr Voster was arrested and charged with murder. He was found not guilty of murder but guilty of culpable homicide. The sentence was five years imprisonment, fully suspended on condition that he paid £130 rand (approximately £30) a month for five years to the widow of the dead man, who had four children. Now read on.

Ignoring inflation, that means that Mr Voster must eventually stump up a total of £1,800. I am not an expert on South African taxation law, so I cannot tell you whether all or part of the sum can be set off as a business expense. Nor does my information reveal whether Farmer Voster is successful and wealthy, or whether he is struggling, and thus must skimp and scrape to meet the impost. But it is not Mr Voster's financial problems that make me uneasy; it is the thought of all the other South Africans who would love to spend a relaxed weekend murdering a black man, but who cannot afford even the modest going rate.

It may be, of course, that there is a judicial sliding scale for such actions; the judge who sentenced Mr Voster might well have been taking into account the fact that Mr Sambo had no fewer than four children, in which case those who propose a childless husband to kill would presumably be charged in a lower band, and bachelors could be done in scot-free. Yet it is notoriously difficult to guess merely by looking at a man how many children he has, and mistakes can be made; suppose someone

has saved up, possibly from a very slender income, to give himself the pleasure of culpably homiciding a black man quite slowly, under the impression that the subject has only one small boy (and a naughty one at that), and then discovers that he has confused his victim with a lookalike, and faces a monstrous bill for poisoning off some excessively philoprogenitive layabout with nine children of various ages and another on the way.

My regular readers will not make the mistake of thinking me an extreme egalitarian; there will always be disparities in income in any society which encourages and rewards thrift, enterprise and hard work. On the other hand, it goes somewhat against the grain to regulate solely by the mechanism of the free market such amusing South African activities as torturing black men to death; whence my unease.

Certainly, I would be implacably opposed to any suggestion that the practice should be nationalized and made free, or even that it should be available on payment of a token sum, with the state making up the shortfall and providing the equipment; that is the highway to waste and inefficiency.

But there is an alternative, which has the virtue of being based entirely on private enterprise, and demonstrates also the important business principle of pooled resources leading to benefits for all those participating. My idea takes something of the form of a tonine, and it would work as follows.

An umbrella organization would be set up to cover the whole country. Anyone would be eligible to join on payment of a small (that is the point) entrance fee and annual subscription, and I even have a name for the enterprise: it would be called the Federation of Kill-a-Kaffir Clubs. (I envisage a time when the idea has been widely taken up and is running successfully, when a white South African, meeting a friend in the



street, will say "Let's stroll down to the Kill-a-Kaffir" — for I would certainly wish the clubs to be convivial places rather than simply the premises where the purpose of them is carried out. But I digress, and must now explain just how my scheme would be operated.

The initial entry charge would go to the hire or construction of appropriate meeting rooms, together with the equipment; thereafter, the annual subscription would be wholly devoted to the purpose of the club, viz. to kill a Kaffir (or, more precisely, to ensure that the price set by the courts for doing so would be immediately available). Every

month, say — perhaps more often if the scheme prospers — the club will stage a draw, and the member whose lucky number comes up can go out and kill a Kaffir (no doubt after standing a round of drinks), secure in the knowledge that there are the funds to back the action, as well as a quiet pride in the fact that he has regularly paid his whack, and is now justly entitled to his sport. (One rule, I think, should be universally enforced; all members should pay the same subscription, lest the wealthier ones should, in time begin to demand, say, two tickets in the draw, thus nullifying the whole purpose of the scheme.)

Obviously, when a member has drawn the winning ticket, he cannot be eligible to enter the draw again until every other member has claimed the prize; how soon his turn will come round again naturally depends on the number of members and their degree of enthusiasm for Kaffir-killing.

In matters of this kind, it rarely pays to look too far ahead: the best-laid plans of mice and men... But one or two consequences, if my idea catches on, can be tentatively predicted. For instance, the reduction in the numbers of the African population would ultimately lead, by the laws of supply and demand,

to higher wages for such blacks as survive; put that together with the extra spending power injected into the black economy from the court-imposed "Dead-Kaffir money" (as I suggest it might be called), and a generally rising level of black prosperity would result, to the good of all.

I must be understood that my proposal is not offered in any spirit of take-it-or-leave-it; I am sure that many improvements can and will be suggested, and I am equally certain that I have failed to take into account this or that difficulty, which others will spot (and I hope resolve). What I have put forward is in the nature of an outline only, not a blueprint with every detail filled in. In any case, I shall not myself be joining a Kill-a-Kaffir Club, partly because I think it would be embarrassing to be constantly lauded by the members for my pioneering efforts, and partly because for some inexplicable reason I have never got much pleasure out of torturing black men to death; I greatly prefer coloureds.

There is one obvious objection to the whole principle of what I have proposed. Why, some will ask, go to all that trouble to murder black men, when by joining the South African Police it can be done with financial and every other kind of impunity, and rewarded with an ample stipend? After all, when the current wave of black unrest began a year or two ago, the Botha government gave the police what was rather amusingly called *carte blanche* to kill any number of blacks, and they have ever since been taking the opportunity with a will, not to say gusto. But those who would follow such a course must have forgotten that the whole purpose of my scheme is to make killing black men *fun*, and I have to say that anyone who would confine the practice to those doing it in the course of paid employment is, in the most literal sense of the word, a spoilsport.

Commentary • RONALD BUTT

Queen and Kremlin

For 10 Downing Street to tell lobby journalists that the Queen would be advised (or "told", as some headlines inevitably put it) by the Prime Minister that she could not go to Moscow if invited by Mr Gorbachev was a constitutional schism as well as ill-mannered towards the Queen. The constitutional convention that the Queen acts in political matters on the advice of the Prime Minister does not mean that she is, or should be, without opinions which she is entitled to express to the Prime Minister. As the impartial head of state, who is permanent while prime ministers come and go, she has her own experience in the light of which she has the right to advise or warn her ministers.

Though she does not intrude on the principles of policy or legislation, she would be entitled to draw ministers' attention to particular questions if she thought it in the public interest to do so. In matters which concern her as closely as a state visit of this kind would, she clearly has a particular right to give her own opinion. Who can be absolutely sure that even Mrs Thatcher might not in some circumstances modify her own position after discussion?

Nor is it consistent with the dignity of the Crown for the Queen to be publicly treated as though she were a commodity to be dispatched or not, as the case may be, wholly at the Prime Minister's will, especially on a visit such as this one, which has personal implications for the Queen because of the murder of the last Tsar and his family.

Which raises the question: what if Mrs Thatcher's advice to the Queen was to be that she should accept an invitation to go to Moscow, and what if the

Queen had wished to put to Mrs Thatcher some personal reservations about the conditions she thought it would be right to attach to the visit, if she did go?

Would it then have been right for No 10 there are reasons to think that Mrs Thatcher personally may not have sanctioned what happened to pre-empt the expression of these opinions by stories badly stating that the Queen would be advised to go to Moscow? That would obviously have been improper, and so therefore was the advance notice of the contrary intention. Ministerial advice to the monarch must be private until a decision has been formally reached, after which, however it evolved, action is understood to be on ministerial responsibility.

All this is not simply constitutional formalism. The dignity and impartiality of the Crown give an important additional quality to government, and when necessary politicians must act above their narrow political interest to avoid embarrassing the Queen. If, for instance, it were necessary for the Queen to prompt negotiations for a government in a hung parliament, the obligation on politicians to enable government to be carried out without involving the Crown too closely in the political negotiations would be an important constitutional stabiliser.

The fact that views on a possible Moscow visit cut across party lines (many Tories think it would be beneficial) was a further reason for preserving the privacy of ministerial advice to the Crown in this matter. There are strong grounds for thinking that a visit by the Queen would be in the interest of peace and provide an unmatchable stimulus for reconciliation and demo-

cratic evolution in Russia. It would, of course, upset those whose healthy detestation of Marxism and Stalinism has become so obsessive that they cannot bring themselves to believe that President Gorbachev can reform the Soviet state. A human frailty which is especially potent in politics (though more among the theoreticians than the active practitioners) is to need enemies even more than friends and to define friendship largely in terms of opposition to a common foe.

We have all become used to our sense of unity and camaraderie in defence against a hostile and dangerous Moscow for more than 40 years. There are some who now cannot easily do without it, particularly those whose emotions lead them to see all things through the eyes of the American Right. They allow themselves no confidence that Mr Gorbachev can succeed.

They point to the incontrovertibly huge preponderance of Soviet armed strength in Europe — which is, indeed, justification enough for Mrs Thatcher's insistence on retaining the British nuclear deterrent, since we cannot be sure, as circumstances change, of the level of American involvement. They rightly stress the still deplorable state of human rights in Russia compared with the West. They observe, correctly, that Russia is still a one-party state which also represses its nationalities.

Yet compared with its condition under Stalin and his dead-end successors, Russia under Gorbachev has made an advance which would have defied prediction only three years ago. And every British citizen knows it from what is now freely reported and by the unleashed

pressures for freedom within the Soviet state.

All that is needed is a sense of history. There was never a revolution which did not evolve (or collapse) sooner or later, regressing to a more civilized norm. The Russian has taken an exceptional time to do so, but it has begun. One reason given for suspicion of Gorbachev's sincerity is that he has never himself disowned Marxism or Lenin. But no reformer can renounce a regime's founding fathers without rousing dangerous opposition to reforms. Beneficent post-revolutionary change is usually achieved by first reinterpreting the founding fathers, not denouncing them. To expect the Russian politicians to rub their whole society's nose in the dirt is simply unrealistic.

In Russia, not only the terrible heritage of Marxist-Leninist anti-personal ideology but also the legacy of Tsarist despotism, which prepared the ground, has to be discarded. The attempt may fail but it advances with astonishing speed and needs encouragement, not rebuff by excessive scepticism and assumed failure.

A visit by the Queen to Moscow in which she could have made observations about freedom and in which her hosts might express some kind of regret for the murderous past could advance that process. The visit need not have come hastily; 1990 could have been a projected date, and if by then Mr Gorbachev's endeavours had failed, a royal visit could have been cancelled. But the expectation of it could have made a small contribution to the success of Mr Gorbachev's endeavours. Is it too late for Mrs Thatcher to think again?

NOV 24 ON THIS DAY 1868

Vesuvius has erupted scores of times since the destruction of Pompeii in 79 BC with the loss of 200,000 lives. It was especially active in the 1860s, with outbreaks in 1861 and 1865, and a long-running one described here which did not subside until November 20.

THE ERUPTION OF VESUVIUS.

(From Our Own Correspondent) NAPLES, NOV. 17

We have it at last — the most stupendous eruption I have witnessed for many years. As you will remember, Vesuvius after a long repose began last year on the 13th of November to give indications of life. Since then it has been more or less active, when on the 8th of last month it flared up very brilliantly, and then sank again to comparative repose. Thus the mountain has been in labour for 12 months, bringing forth at times little more than mists, until at length it has produced a giant. Of its action during the last week I spoke in my last letter, as I did also of the guarded manner in which Professor Palmieri alluded to the probability of a great eruption. For myself I expected one, and have not been disappointed. On Saturday night a column of fire rose continually to a great height, obedient to an impulse which seemed to be given every two or three seconds. The light fell for some miles across the bay, and the waves by their undulations seemed to increase its intensity, giving it the appearance at times of a path laid with millions of flaming diamonds, at others of a path of solid fire. On Sunday night the side of the mountain was covered with fire, while the clouds which obscured the summit prevented us from seeing

what was going on, though from the redness of the atmosphere above it was easy to conjecture that the strife of elements was great.

On Monday (that is yesterday) the smoke had cleared away, and looking from any window I witnessed, not a column, but a huge body of black smoke, rising, I should say, upwards of 2,000 feet in the air; it was not a rigid column, but through the glass appeared to be formed of innumerable circles, rolling one over the other and mingling in their ascent. How grand it was! What an idea of power it gave! Unfortunately for the people's beauty of the spectacle, a south-west wind carried it inland, and we shall doubtless hear of whole districts being covered with that impalpable powder which generally insures a good harvest in the following season. The course of the lava, which flows most abundantly, was marked by a white smoke, which rose all the way from the summit down to a point long past the Atrio del Cavallo. Like the sluggish vapour from a marshy country, it rose slowly and lingered along the whole line, at points, however, ascending to a considerable elevation, suggesting the probability of another huge mound having been opened. On such a scene it was that the sun shed its light, irradiating the eastern side of the column... Throughout the day it poured forth its volumes of circling smoke, and when night came such a spectacle presented itself as most "would give their eyes" to have seen. No language I feel is adequate to a description of its glories. The whole mountain seemed on fire; the sea was on fire; it was no longer a path of light that I saw, but a long extended sheet of fire, and, as it, one might have imagined that not a better world, such as one as might create.



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MR BOTHA'S BURDENS

President Botha's reprieve of the so-called Sharpeville Six will be welcomed by all sensible South Africans as evidence not only of a new political wisdom in Pretoria but of that even rarer quality, compassion. The decision merits no less a welcome from international critics who took up the fate of the Six as a cause célèbre and a possible pretext for further sanctions against South Africa.

It should be remembered that, whatever the legal argument surrounding their conviction and however compelling the view that their involvement warranted a lesser sentence than death, the Sharpeville Six were found guilty of a brutal murder. The reprieve was a political risk for Mr Botha — only partly offset by the decision, demanded by the extreme right, to extend clemency also to those white prisoners on death row who were sentenced for the murder of black South Africans.

The reprieve of the Sharpeville Six came within days of the acceptance by Pretoria of the Geneva accords which pave the way for an independent Namibia. Together, these two decisions suggest a new mood of flexibility in a government whose chief characteristic has too often been self-defeating intransigence.

No sooner has Mr Botha laid down one burden imposed on him by the courts, however, than he is faced with another. The sentence is due to be delivered tomorrow on the leaders of the United Democratic Front and other black organizations who were last week found guilty of treason and terrorism.

In all but the most coherent democracies, treason is essentially a political crime, a nebulous concept which governments use to criminalize political dissent. Wisdom suggests that it is a weapon to be used judiciously, if at all.

South Africa, which displays a passion for the legal process rare in authoritarian governments, tends to employ both the blunt weapon of government edict and the more refined instrument of the law to stifle extra-parliamentary opposition, particularly when it comes from the left. As last week's treason trial

judgment proves once again, the result of this ready recourse to the law to solve political problems has been to politicize the courts and damage the independence of the judiciary.

Although treason can be a highly elastic concept, it would appear from initial reports that the lengthy judgment which brought the three-year trial to an end could have stretched it to breaking point. The accused appear to have been found guilty of treason because they espoused aims similar to those of the outlawed African National Congress.

The judge also seems to have found that in organizing the 1985-86 campaign of boycott and protest, four of them were responsible for the brutal violence which subsequently engulfed the black townships. He has apparently drawn a causal connection between the rhetoric of dissent and the practice of violence which bodes ill for the future of extra-parliamentary protest in South Africa.

By finding seven more accused guilty of terrorism under the Internal Security Act — a catch-all statute which defines the language of terrorism and subversion so widely as to ensnare all but the most anodyne protest — the judgment will have a chilling effect on all left-wing extra-parliamentary opposition in South Africa. A government intolerant of dissent would seem to have every cause to celebrate Mr Justice van Dijkhorst's verdict.

The judge's concept of treason and terrorism sets an ominous precedent for the future of previously legitimate protest. But the long-term implications are no less ominous for the Government itself, as Mr Botha, who is still wrestling with the release of Nelson Mandela — sentenced 25 years ago for the crime of sabotage — already knows to his cost.

By using the law to criminalize political protest, the South African Government has placed an intolerable burden on the courts. They have been dragged ineffectually, and at great cost, into the political arena. As the case of the Sharpeville Six demonstrated, however, the law cannot shield politicians from political decisions. That burden is Mr Botha's alone.

AN UNJUST DELAY

A week has passed since Pakistan went to the polls, but Miss Benazir Bhutto, leader of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), has yet to be called upon to form a government. The delay has enabled the leaders of the losing side to put forward a variety of ill-conceived claims in an attempt to secure the mandate denied them through the ballot box. The delay threatens to rekindle some of the tensions and divisions the elections might have helped to resolve.

The plain fact is that Miss Bhutto and her party secured the largest number of seats in the National Assembly. With 38 more than her rivals, the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA), and just 12 short of a majority, she earned the right to be given the first opportunity to form a government. Whatever the majority had decided, however, the prospect of her accession reawoke many of the doubts and anxieties connected with the Bhutto family name.

The proper course of action was simple and straightforward. The acting President, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, should have called on Miss Bhutto as soon as the full results were known. Thereafter, it would have been her choice either to form a coalition government or to try to survive as a minority administration. Once sworn in, her fate would have rested with the National Assembly.

The acting President has instead postponed the nomination, on distinctly dubious grounds. His first argument appears to be that under the terms of the Constitution, as amended by General Zia, he can call on anyone to form a government within 30 days of the elections. This was a martial law amendment to Pakistan's democratically conceived 1973 Constitution and was specifically designed for an assembly without political parties. It was never intended to apply to a freely and fairly elected parliament, in which the main contest is between rival parties.

His second possible argument relates to the results of the provincial assembly elections

which followed the National Assembly elections last week. Because the IDA fared better than the PPP in three out of four Provincial Assembly elections, it might be possible to argue that the IDA has a right to be considered the legitimate government of the country.

But this is to misunderstand the federal nature of Pakistan's government. It is quite feasible for different parties to control the central and the four provincial administrations. Indeed, this is precisely why the Constitution provides for separate national and provincial elections and, this time round, that was the verdict of the people.

Equally erroneous is the argument of the IDA leader, Mr Nawaz Sharif, that power cannot be transferred until one or other party has a demonstrable majority in Parliament. That is not how the parliamentary democratic system works. Prime ministers can be defeated by a vote of no confidence. It is not customary, however, for them to require a parliamentary vote of confidence before they assume office.

The inescapable conclusion is that the caretaker administration is allowing Mr Nawaz Sharif time to cobble together the support he needs to be appointed prime minister. There could be no other reason for the protracted and patently unnecessary talks the caretaker President has been holding this week with all the party leaders. The result is likely to be an unseemly exercise in vote-buying and horse-trading which will discredit a so far credible exercise in democracy.

If the acting President has further doubts about the suitability of Miss Bhutto to become prime minister, he need only reflect on earlier elections in Pakistan. The 1970 election led to civil war and the dismemberment of the country. The 1977 poll brought 11 years of army rule. It would be tragic if the 1988 elections, which promised so well, brought only disappointment, frustration, and the prospect of renewed unrest.

TREATING IGNORANCE

The Government's decision to introduce anonymous testing for Aids is long overdue. The spread of the disease may be slowing but the need for greater information about it is no less.

There are signs that official publicity is working. The slowdown in the rate of Aids among homosexual males is partly attributable to a decline in promiscuity among those most at risk and partly to more use of protectives during intercourse. Eighty-five per cent of the cases in this country continue to be among the homosexual community. Such a trend is, therefore, significant.

But it should not encourage complacency. Aids will be here for a long time — longer than the reach of any public relations campaign. The more that is understood about its transmission the better.

Too little is still known about the epidemiology of Aids. At the last official count, 1,862 cases had been confirmed in Britain, of whom 1,002 had died. But the number of those who are carrying the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) can only be estimated — at around 50,000.

As the virus can have an eight-year incubation period, such figures are as unreliable as they are important. Measures to control and combat the disease are being impaired as long as so little is known about the virus's prevalence in Britain.

One obvious need is for a more fully researched figure than that estimate of 50,000. Another is for a more precise idea of how quickly it is spreading and where. A third is the true extent of its presence in the heterosexual majority.

Most recent medical prognoses have predicted a slow rise in the number of heterosexually-transmitted cases. But so far its rapid

spread among heterosexuals (as was being widely forecast a year or two ago) has not materialized. Some have concluded from this that the high incidence of Aids among heterosexuals in parts of Africa may be due to the prevalence of other venereal disease in these countries. Whether they are correct, however, is unclear.

More and better data is needed. The sure way to collect this is by routine testing of people throughout the country on the lines outlined by the Department of Health yesterday.

There are ethical arguments against the scheme. A person whose blood sample is found to be carrying the HIV during a routine check need be neither told nor treated for it. This is against the natural and proper instincts of all doctors.

But if reliable figures are to be found, the anonymity of the survey must be protected. Research carried out at the Middlesex Hospital, London, has shown in the past that when homosexual men have been tested anonymously the incidence of the virus has been 25 per cent. When they have been asked to come forward voluntarily, the figure has dropped to 12 per cent — suggesting that men who suspect they have the HIV do not automatically come forward to be tested. It is only by carrying out routine checks and promising anonymity that research teams might emerge with the data required.

Not only does ignorance breed prejudice but the reverse is also true. The more knowledge that can be collected about Aids, the more hope scientists have of conquering the fear which surrounds it — and the better armed they will be in pursuing what is going to be a long and arduous campaign. There is much to be gained and nothing to be lost by this advance.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Choosing right tank for the Army

From Field Marshal Sir John Stanier
Sir, Once again your leading article, "On the right tracks" (November 19), admirably sums up the dilemma with which the Government is faced in choosing a tank for the British Army.

There is, however, one aspect of the choice which has not, I think, so far been mentioned. The American Abrams tank performs magnificently; the ease and speed of loading its 120mm gun is much enhanced by the stowage of much of the very high-explosive ammunition in an armoured box on the back of the tank turret (known as the "busle"). You say that the Abrams is a proven tank, and so it is — in everything except in battle.

It has always been a principle of British tank design that no high-explosive charges should be stowed above the turret ring, but well below in the hull of the tank. This is the case with Challenger, Chieftain and all their ancestors. It means of course that loading the gun is neither so easy nor so quick, and it necessitates the use of ammunition separated into two parts.

It does, however, keep this very high risk part of a tank's cargo in the safest place in the vehicle. In the Abrams, although separated from the turret by an armoured wall, it is right behind the commander's head.

Service manpower

From Captain H. H. Bracken, RN (ret)

Sir, It has been obvious for many years that, from 1985, there would be a sharp fall in the number of men in the 15-24 age group. The Ministry of Defence appears to have belatedly become aware of this and hopes to mitigate the adverse effects on Service manpower by recruiting more women (report, November 3). They are likely to be in for a sad disappointment since the number of young women is also falling steeply and they will be in fierce competition with the NHS and the teaching professions.

The fact is that almost all the

sources other than the professionals, those views should presumably be presented to her as well. What arrangements do you visualise for doing this?

We all of us become impatient with professionals at one time or another, whether medical, legal or bureaucratic. But ultimately our boring old doctors and solicitors have a great deal to be said for them. The historical record shows that Prime Ministers, who have relied on their own hunches or on enthusiastic and opinionated amateurs, and ignored their professional advisers, have usually lived to regret it.

There is much to be said for keeping hold of nurse for fear of finding something worse. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL HOWARD, Oriel College, Oxford, November 18.

principled stand on the issues of civil liberties, the environment, devolution of power and local government, race, internationalism and Third World aid — and above all on defence in the Gorbachev era where if one is looking for sacred cows to slaughter one need look no further than the truly outmoded fad of the nuclear deterrent. That is what, I venture to suggest, most people, not only Labour supporters, now seek.

It is to the credit of Labour's leadership, and not least the Kinnoch-Hattersley team, that a recognition of these imperatives is emerging. They deserve encouragement, not stick, from well-wishers. Yours faithfully, BENEDICT BIRNBERG, 4 Eliot Place, Blackheath, SE3.

Nato countries are experiencing similar problems, with declines in recruitable manpower ranging from 14 per cent in France through 24 per cent in Britain to a staggering 40 per cent in West Germany.

The Defence Select Committee were told there would be a trough in the manpower available. In fact, the low point in this age-group is reached in the year 2000; there will then be some recovery before the numbers start to fall again in the year 2020. We must have a defence policy based upon fact and not on pie in the sky. Yours faithfully, H. H. BRACKEN, The Old House, Groombridge, East Sussex.

Reform at FO

From Professor Sir Michael Howard, FBA

Sir, The campaign which you have been orchestrating in your pages against the Foreign and Commonwealth Office postulates an alternative source of advice whose political orientation would be unambiguous: antagonistic to the Soviet Union, contemptuous of the Third World, hostile to arms control and, one suspects, closely associated with right-wing foundations in the United States.

Would you be equally enthusiastic about a similar body which was urging upon the Government a policy of unilateral disarmament, the denuclearization of Europe and break-up of the Alliance, massive interest-free loans to Third World countries and the closest possible association with the Soviet Union? For if the Prime Minister is to receive advice from

Shadow play

From Mr Benedict Birnberg

Sir, As a left-of-centre Labour Party member may I stand up for the leadership of Neil Kinnock and Roy Hattersley which your editorial ("Shadows in the wings", November 17) finds faulty.

You rightly prescribe Labour's need to convince the electorate of its ability to steer a prosperous economy. However, as a credible "moderate" collectivist party (your words), this entails presenting the country with a radical alternative to the market-oriented and authoritarian dogmas of Thatcherism and a return to the egalitarian and community-oriented principles upon which the welfare, social and economic policies of the post-war consensus were based.

It also requires a rational and

Antarctic sledging

From Mr J. D. J. Wildridge

Sir, In your Science Report, "North Pole claim goes west" (November 15), what was of particular interest to me as a former member of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey (1957-60) was the reference to Wally Herbert's being worried about unbelievable sledging times.

I would agree with him, because in the Antarctic a day's dog-sledging on a very good surface would be about 35 miles. An analysis of Peary's book, *The North Pole*, shows that he would

have had to travel much greater distances each day than those mentioned.

A rather rare book, *Did Peary Reach the North Pole? by a Man in the Street* (W. H. Lewis), published in 1911, shows that the distances supposedly travelled per day by Peary were not credible; so does my own personal experience — certainly not on sea ice, where pressure ridges and possible open-water leads add to the difficulties. Yours faithfully, J. D. J. WILDRIDGE, 21 Elterbeck Lane, Worthington, Cumbria, November 21.

Namibian outlook

From Mr Robert Chambers

Sir, A small smile of triumph for Dr Crocker indeed (leading article, November 17), but perhaps only two cheers. It must be recognised that this apparent solution is only likely to stick if real freedom is achieved for both Angola and Namibia.

For a number of years a real political debate has been under way in Namibia with little recognition from outside the country. With elections now proposed, the support that the United Nations gives for Swapo as the "sole authentic voice of the Namibian people as a whole" can give little credibility as overseers for the proposed elections to the dozens of non-violent political parties involved in this process. For a genuine pluralistic debate to evolve more than this must be necessary. Further, there is a real need for

Swapo to re-examine its record in exile and to help to solve the myriad complaints against it still outstanding in Angola and Zambia — the fate of hundreds of internal dissidents detained by Swapo as "Boer spies"; the constant allegations of corruption and tribalism in administration of overseas aid; and the apparent threat amongst Namibian exiles in Zambia, who are desperate to escape from Swapo-administered camps.

Swapo has been challenged repeatedly over these issues by, amongst others, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and parliamentarians from the UK and the USA, but no explanation or response has ever been forthcoming.

In contrast debate, at least, inside Namibia has been free-ranging and intensive, with Swapo's legal political wing playing a small part in it. Domination

Foundations for child guidance

From Mr Tim Rathbone, MP for Lewes (Conservative)

Sir, Two surveys (report, November 18) drew attention to the growing difficulties faced by parents and teachers in controlling children properly, directing them correctly, and teaching them effectively. Too many four and five-year-old children were found to be behaving violently, unable to concentrate properly, and generally aggressive and bad-tempered; too many 11 to 16-year-olds smoke and drink too much, read too little, watch TV for too many hours each day, and skimp on homework.

The problem seems to exist everywhere; as you point out in your leader of November 18, the picture is disturbing.

Parents are certainly at fault; some teachers may not be up to the demanding task facing them today. But an underlying reason for too much of this problem is lack of proper nursery schooling.

Good nursery schooling improves educational performance, at primary school and after; it encourages learning the art of learning at an early age; it produces excellent behavioural benefits through and after full-time education.

Pre-school educated children tend to have higher IQs and be socially better adjusted. Yet the British nursery school system is presently totally inadequate and, in terms of quality and quantity, lags behind many other European countries.

Expansion is long overdue, as these surveys of young people indicate. Indeed, with the benefit of hindsight, we should have lowered the school-entry age before raising the school-leaving age some years ago. In our increasingly complicated and challenging world, nursery school provides a firm foundation of experience, knowledge, and good habit, which will benefit every child.

The House of Commons Select Committee on Education is studying pre-school education right now. I hope that it will grasp the full importance of it and its power to contribute uniquely to a more coherent, peaceful and happier society. And I hope that our Government will immediately react positively, as is so desperately necessary.

For far too long nursery schooling has been the overlooked ingredient in our educational system. With all the other improvements at present in hand, now is the time to put that critical element to rights. Yours faithfully, TIM RATHBONE, House of Commons, SW1, November 21.

Legal aid

From Mr Kevin J. Coyne

Sir, Heavy criticism by a judge of the performance of a Law Society legal-aid area office was reported in your paper last week. It was said (Law Report, November 18) that a legal aid application took many months to be processed and that correspondence relating to an application lay unread in an office for weeks.

Allow me, if I may, to blow the trumpet for Legal Aid Area No 15 here on Merseyside. In an application submitted by this firm earlier in the year the complete process, from start to finish, was dealt with in 18 working days. The process involved the completion and submission to the legal-aid local office

of the application and thereafter the completion by the client of the lengthy booklet submitted to her requesting details of her financial means and circumstances.

Thereafter, upon receipt of all that information, the application was considered by the area committee and the certificate issued. The complete process took place in the middle of the national postal strike and a fax machine was not used at any stage in the process!

Chaos often breeds life when order, perhaps, breeds habit. Yours faithfully, KEVIN J. COYNE, Coyne (Solicitors), 12 Coronation Road, Great Crosby, Liverpool, Merseyside.

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of the application and thereafter the completion by the client of the lengthy booklet submitted to her requesting details of her financial means and circumstances.

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Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WHITFIELD,
Chairman,
National Family Trust,
c/o The Salvation Army (Legal
Section),
101 Queen Victoria Street, EC4.

From Mrs Jeanne Jinks
Sir, Your editorial concluded that "parents and teachers of today are falling short". However, the feature based on "Young People in 1987" suggested that the example of non-smoking teachers had encouraged teenagers to follow suit.

As a specialist English teacher I am appalled by the total ignorance of pre-school knowledge previously learned from parents and siblings. Nursery rhymes, fairy stories and infant games are not being passed to the next generation. Schools are having to provide a cultural foundation which hitherto has been done through family life.

Yours faithfully,
J. JINKS,
8 Church Street,
Great Hale,
Sleaford, Lincolnshire.

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THE ARTS

Worlds apart

THE TIMES
NEW GROVEMusical
CHALLENGE

Ask Stanley Sadie, editor of the *New Grove*, what the biggest developments in music scholarship were in the 25 years separating the fifth edition of *Grove's Dictionary* from the 1980 publication of *New Grove*, and he replies "ethnomusicology". Ethnomusicology is the study of musical cultures around the world and the *New Grove* devotes more than a million words to the subject.

By 1985, when *Musical Instruments Grove* was published, the advances were even more spectacular: of the 14,000 instruments described in that volume, some 8,000 are non-Western. More than 2,000 types of drum are listed, and while the timpani still receives more attention than, for instance, the Polynesian Lali or the North Indian Timki, the breadth of the information is extraordinary.

This new approach reflects changing attitudes. Until comparatively recently, European art

music was generally considered more sophisticated, more intellectually and spiritually satisfying — in short, superior — to non-Western musics. It was only when scholars actually started to analyse, for instance, the rhythmic complexities of the Indian raga, or the ensemble discipline of the Balinese gamelan, that the Eurocentric approach was shown to be blinkered.

Unsurpassed in scope and authority, the *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* contains more than 22 million words of scholarship in its 20 volumes: along with five music-filled days in New York, it is the first prize in *The Times/New Grove Musical Challenge*, a test of wit and knowledge for which we publish today the third set of questions.

To go with the £1,100 dictionary, the winner will enjoy New Year at the Grand Hyatt Hotel on 42nd Street, with tickets to Placido Domingo in *Aida* at the Metropolitan Opera and to a gala featuring Marilyn Horne at Carnegie Hall, plus £200 spending money.

Second prize is a full set of the dictionary. Three runners-up have choice of the *New Grove Dictionary of American Music*, *Dictionary of Musical Instruments*, or *Dictionary of Jazz* (published by Macmillan at £395, £295 and £225 respectively).

TODAY'S QUESTIONS

11. Name one composer who murdered his wife.
12. Which composer died after wounding himself with his baton while composing?
13. Which composer was killed (a) in a bicycle accident; (b) by drowning in the English Channel during World War One; (c) at the Siege of York?
14. Which composer got himself shot because he went out for a smoke?
15. Name a composer of the baroque period who was murdered.

How to enter

Each day until Saturday, November 26, five questions will appear in *The Times*. Keep your answers until Saturday, when a reply coupon for all 25 questions and instructions on where to send them will appear with the final set of questions.

The person with the greatest number of correct answers will

be the winner. In the event of a tie, there will be a draw to determine the winner, the second prize winner and, if necessary, the runners-up.

Competition rules: 1. Prizes cannot be exchanged for cash equivalent. 2. Entrants must be 18 years of age or over. 3. Employees of News International or Macmillan Publishers Ltd, past or present, and their immediate families, are not eligible. 4. No correspondence can be entered into. 5. The judges' decision is final.

David Robinson finds in Clint Eastwood's film about Charlie Parker a sensitive response to musical genius

Caught in untidy flight

CINEMA

Bird (15)
Lumière, Screen on the Hill

Stand and Deliver (15)
Warner Leicester Square

Scrooged (PG)
Plaza, Cannons Oxford Street, Baker Street

The Nature of the Beast (PG)
Cannons Haymarket, Tottenham Court Road

Les Parents Terribles (15)
Everyman, Hampstead



Fourth and final love: Forest Whitaker (left) as Charlie Parker, Diane Venora as Chan Richardson, in *Bird*

In *Bird*, a monumental portrait of the greatest jazz saxophonist, Charlie "Bird" Parker, Clint Eastwood, as director, breaks boldly away from biopic conventions. Neither awed hagiography nor pedantic docudrama, it disregards chronology and leaves aspects of Parker's life — including his first three marriages — untouched. Rather than forcing the untidy ragbag of a life into neat dramatic shape, Eastwood settles for a collage of scenes and impressions and emotions, moving without restraint backwards and forwards in time.

Joel Oliansky's script concentrates on the last year or two of Parker's short life. Flashbacks show him briefly as a Kansas City kid learning the flute; an early incident where his teenage cockiness is cut down in an early session with professionals becomes a recurrent motif haunting the film. In the early 1940s and his own twenties, Parker effects a musical revolution with Dizzy Gillespie's band and the introduction of bebop.

Much of the film deals with a period when his addictions — not to speak of the inroads of rock — have made this great musician virtually unemployable. A sophisticated man, aware of his huge talent, he is also agonizingly, helplessly conscious of his private frailties — addiction to drugs and drink and a compulsion to womanizing, despite the sincerity of his love for his last companion, Chan Richardson. Life is not on his side: he loses his child; and he is a constant target of the corrupt narcotics police.

Racism is never an issue, though its shadow is present: there is a comic reversal sequence where Parker's group are obliged to pass off their white trumpet player Red Rodney as albino, so as not to arouse Deep Southern prejudices. Red Rodney's own recollections contribute one of the most touching glimpses of Parker's tragic self-awareness: Bird bawls him out for following his own addiction, telling him it is an illusion that drugs ever made anyone play better. Such were the effects of Parker's own abuse that when he died in 1955, at the age of 34, the doctor assessed his age on his death certificate as between 50 and 60.

The night world of jazz is

evoked in dark, brooding images; and Forest Whitaker's Bird is a figure of tragic dignity, finely complemented by Diane Venora's combative, stoical Chan. Dominating this supremely musical film, though, is Parker himself, in a dozen historic recordings (two previously unused) — to which Whitaker mimes convincingly. Purists may question the dubbing of new backings on the precious archive documents; but Lennie Niehaus's sensitive arrangements and the undetectable technical skill are impressive.

Stand and Deliver is an attractive and more optimistic fragment from real life, which has the added curiosity of representing an emergent North American Hispanic cinema. It is based on the experiences of Jaime Escalante, a teacher in Los Angeles who managed the considerable feat of making advanced calculus so exciting to his very mixed batch of high school students that even the most recalcitrant achieved academic excellence.

Independently produced by its

director Ramon Menendez, writer Tom Musca and star Edward James Olmos, it plays down the undoubted difficulties of the real-life events; but the warmth and optimism are genuine and communicated. Contemporaries of the schoolkids in the film will be drawn by the Latin-style rock and the performance of Lou Diamond Phillips, star of *La Bamba*.

A whittier film than *Ghostbusters*, *Scrooged* promises to be a less successful vehicle for Bill Murray. The film casts him as an up-dated Scrooge, the president of a television network for whom Christmas means only ratings — in pursuance of which he is producing *A Christmas Carol* with a lady acrobat as Tiny Tim and a chorus line of leggy Scroogettes.

Murray is haunted by Christmas Past, in the form of a demonic New York cabbie, Christmas Present, as Carol Kane dressed up as a glitter fairy with a Frank Bruno punch; and Christmas Yet To

Come, as a creature from the stock of schlock-horror.

There are some inspired comic conceits, and enjoyable walk-on performances by such as Robert Mitchum, Buddy Hackett and the late John Houseman, but Murray's sardonic deadpan and the essential darkness of the Dickens theme combine to make this a peculiarly sombre Christmas comedy. Worse, the writers Mitch Glazer and Michael O'Donoghue fail entirely to come up with an ending, and Murray's philanthropic intrusion on to the television screens of the world is débacle rather than dénouement. The director was Richard Donner.

Franco Rosso's *The Nature of the Beast*, with a script adapted from her own novel by Janni Howkes, is more sympathetic in intentions than actual achievement. Set in a depressed Lancashire cotton town, it presents a mysterious beast, marauding on the local sheep and hens, as a metaphor for the monster of unemployment, destroying pride, family life and community.

Both beasts are seen through the imaginations of a couple of early teenage schoolboys, both indirect victims of the communal breakdown. The problem of the script is that the separate elements — realist and metaphoric — never really engage; and neither seems satisfactorily worked through. The main weight falls on the principal actor, Lynton Dearden, who is appealing but cannot intimate the depths of hurt of the young David Bradley in *Kes* — a film to which *The Nature of the Beast* owes much.

In its series of classic revivals in sparkling new prints, the Everyman is presenting Jean Cocteau's *Les Parents Terribles*. Adapting his own stage play, Cocteau boldly defied the convention of "opening up" and instead closed it in, concentrating on close-ups and confined sets to emphasize the claustrophobia of his taut, tense tragic melodrama of French bourgeois life. Time has proved the wisdom of his method and the durability of the performances of Yvonne de Bray, Gabrielle Dorziat, Josette Day and Jean Marais.

Gender genes

TELEVISION

The capacity for changing sex according to environment would undoubtedly play havoc with the everyday life of many species. The discovery of the human "sex gene" — the one that switches microscopic Sharon's XX to tiny Jason's XY, early and conclusively — has come not a moment too soon.

Antenna (BBC2) revealed that shrimps happily bend their genders in response to circadian fluctuation, and that the sex of infant alligators depends on the temperature at which their eggs have been incubated. More com-

elling than these were the specimens of *Professor televisionensis* who seemed to have attended an extramural course in hand-waving while walking to camera.

Meanwhile, their physicist colleagues in America put their faith not in manual emphasis but in nuclear megadeath. "I have personal power over events of global significance," snarled one of the weapons designers who persist in blowing up large lumps of the Nevada desert at \$100 million a pop. Their latest wheeze is an earth-boring bomb, guaranteed to wrinkle out the Soviet leadership from their underground bunkers. Ostriches do something similar, on a more modest scale.

Christabel (also BBC2) continued with its awkward air of having been scripted by a Dennis Potter fan. The episodic mini-series format has turned traits into mannerisms, and what should be structure — elision, repetition and so on — is now ornament. As mini-series go, this is first-rate stuff, but the heart of drama is missing. Last night's instalment was memorable for a bravura Hitler impression by Sam Kelly.

Martin Cropper

Dole queue tale

THEATRE

The Conquest of the South Pole
Royal Court

Unemployment, as the transverse heroine of Manfred Karge's *Man to Man* lately told Royal Court spectators, leaves you all alone in the snow and ice. In *The Conquest of the South Pole* (another transfer from the Edinburgh Traverse) Karge builds a play out of this line. Four kids, terminally defeated by an eternity of queuing up at the job centre, take over an attic and rebuild their morale by re-enacting Amundsen's Antarctic quest with a washing-line of laundry representing the snowy wastes.

They have their setbacks. Not only are they trapped in crevasses and reduced to eating dog-meat, but the owner of the washing-line declares war on the expedition, as it is distracting her boyfriend from his cookery course. However, thanks to the arrival of a fully employed birthday guest whose contemptuous arrogance alienates the rest of the party, she joins in

and the group struggles through its last 179 steps and triumphantly locates the Pole on the tea table.

Karge couples the fantasy adventure with the humdrum flow of everyday events. As in *Man to Man*, his text is a multi-referential tour de force, combining catchwords, third-person dialogue, heightened language, and free-associative wordplay (brilliantly captured in Tinch Minter and Antony Vivis's translation).

But it does not create any belief in the adventure. You can extract any amount of metaphorical meanings from it as a demonstration of the boys' untapped potentialities, or as a counter-image for their chilling expeditions to the job centre. But the game is always there to signify something else; it never takes hold as a story in its own right.

The text presents a neutral canvas, on which Stephen Unwin has superimposed a savagely virile Scottish locale. Led by Alan Cumming's Slupianek, the fanatical brains of the outfit, the five boys generate a good deal of raw power and rage. It is not easy to see them being activated into the fantasy by reading a book, or cultivating the required fascination with suicide and death pacts. On such key issues, the play has failed to cross its national boundaries.

Irving Wardle

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Suite but incoherent

DANCE

The Spirit of Fugue
Covent Garden

David Bintley's second new work of the Covent Garden season again has a specially written score. It is by Peter McGowan and it extends their collaboration from the drama of *Metamorphosis*, through the more abstract but still characterized *Sons of Horus*, into a pure dance form.

McGowan gives the score a separate title, *Collection*, and adopts a loose structure ranging from two-part inventions through more lyrical episodes to a multi-layered collage of sound. Each may have sparked off his forms but the result most often sounds like the Stravinsky of *Dances Concertantes* or *Agon*. It is written for small orchestra with frequent prominence for individual instruments, especially wind and what sounded like marimbas.

This encourages Bintley to a relatively relaxed manner for much of the dancing, which also concentrates on a few performers used mostly in solos or small ensembles. His invention is more striking for the women than the men, especially some syncope, wide-hipped contortions for Deborah Bull and some alternating entries full of pizzazz for Viviana Durante and Nicola Roberts.

Maria Almeida and Bruce

Sansom are given a rather thin, linear duet, light and skippy. After many busy entries for the other dancers, a duet for the newcomer Darcey Bussell with Jonathan Cope provides a welcome serenity. Bintley has spotted the essence of Bussell's quality: her body falls naturally into harmonious shapes, which need just to be allowed to glow in space.

Each section of *The Spirit of Fugue* is individually pleasing. What is not apparent at first view is an overall shape taking it beyond an attractive suite of dances into a satisfying whole. It may be

that the music's structure tells against it. Terry Bartlett's design (colour upon colour, shape upon shape) for once disrupts instead of enhancing the stage picture.

In the *Don Quixote Pas de Deux*, two of the Royal Ballet's brightest young hopes, Viviana Durante and Errol Pickford, were given a big display number, rare for this company, but cruelly handicapped by disjointed choreography, ludicrous costumes and absurd lighting. They went down fighting.

John Percival

DAZZLING
CINEMA

Gill Pargle DAILY MIRROR

...the director's best work in a decade.

Brian Cox TIME OUT

...highly entertaining.

Adam Mars-Jones THE INDEPENDENT

Jeff Bridges... a performance that is the stuff of Oscars.

Tom Hutchinson MAIL ON SUNDAY

A new film from George Lucas and Francis Ford Coppola.

TUCKER
THE MAN AND HIS DREAM
PG

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BOOKS

The blind prophet

James Wood reviews an unhistorical apology for Eliot's escapist anti-Semitism

It is more often forgotten as frivolous than cited as serious that, for most of his life, T. S. Eliot wore English suits but American underwear. There was, perhaps, for Eliot no great distance between a suit of English clothes and the fabric of English culture; he chose both quite deliberately, and forced a fanatically constructed Englishness on to an American, rootless, he clung to the firm consolations of English tradition and Anglo-Catholicism — Mass at seven in the morning and tea at four in the afternoon — so that by the time of *Four Quartets*, he could write "history is now and England", and not flinch.

As he fled from America, so he fled from a history which seemed meaningless to him, and put on the armour of literature, constructing an ideal order and tradition within which to house his vulnerable genius. "These fragments have I shored against my ruins" is one of the famous lines of *The Waste Land*, and not without reason, for in this poem Eliot hurls much of Western literature — albeit fragments and filings — at what he took to be the futility of modern history. History may be meaningless, but literature is not — not yet, anyway. Eliot was not alone: this was the comprehensive, ferocious despair of modernism (think of Mann, Lawrence, Pound, Yeats, Benjamin) that dared history to have significance or else die. And this is why modernism flirted so promiscuously with fascism, for if history is meaningless, then something fixed and fearless must be put in its place.

It is necessary to say all this at some length, because Christopher Ricks neglects to say any of it, at any length. Yet this is the only possible context within which to place Eliot's anti-Semitism: an intelligence which engaged with the futility of modern history, but which recoiled from its energetic barbarisms with such fierce evasion that Eliot could write in 1942 — in 1942! — "history is a pattern of timeless moments". Professor Ricks is not very interested in history, which means that he is not very interested in anti-Semitism, despite his having written a book about it. He is one of

the last — albeit one of the finest — practitioners of practical criticism, a methodology which has more interest in the minute analysis of language than in the messy assessment of history. Someone once called it the lemon-squeezing school of criticism, which is all right as long as you remain curious about the origin of the lemons and who picked them. Ricks, sadly, is more interested in the pips.

The best example of his waning critique comes in his discussion of "Gerontion". Gerontion, old and sick, fulminates against history and rants for redemption. "After such knowledge, what forgiveness? Think now/History has many cunning passages..." The anti-Semitism comes earlier in the poem, as Gerontion sees his landlord: "And the Jew squats on the window-sill, the owner/Spawned in some estaminet of Antwerp/Blistered in Brussels, patched and peeled in London." Ricks's "defence" — though in fairness, one should say that Ricks does not attempt to absolve Eliot — runs as follows: "The consciousness in 'Gerontion' after all is not offered as healthy, sane and wise; who would wish to be he?" In other words, we must not have to trust Gerontion. But he is the only voice in the poem, and he exorcises the world with an intellectual penetration too precise to discount.

A healthier analysis would surely go on to show how Eliot/Gerontion attacks the Jew in the same way that he attacks history a little later in the poem. Just as history seems to Eliot without forgiveness, has many cunning passages, is fearfully unanchored, so seems the Jew — rootlessly portable, the harrowed habitué of everywhere and nowhere. And so might Eliot himself have been, if he had not put on his suit of English clothes, his stringent dogmas. Jewishness threatened Eliot with what he saw as the rootlessness of contemporary reality. This is not a justification, but the beginnings of an explanation. We hear nothing of it in Ricks's book.

Again, his discussion of Eliot's anti-Semitism in *After Strange Gods* (1934) is too minutely verbal. This is the passage: "The



GLYN BOYD HART

population should be homogenous; where two or more cultures exist in the same place they are likely either to be fiercely self-conscious or both to adulterate. What is still more important is unity of religious background; and reasons of race and religion combine to make any large number of free-thinking Jews undesirable." Ricks is swift to condemn that passage, to point out that the word "race" has no part in the argument, and then to "defend" Eliot on the grounds that as a Christian, free-thinkers of any race troubled him. But what is the important word used here? It is "homogenous"; if history — as Eliot saw it — is fragmenting, perhaps aided and abetted by "free-thinking Jews", then it must be confronted with something homogenous — a population, a culture, a tradition. But again, Ricks is silent when we most need him to be talkative.

In truth there is something uneasy about this book. In his impeccable liberalism, Ricks falls over his feet in his rush to condemn Eliot's intolerance. The word

"indefensible" occurs almost as often as the word "Eliot". But then why seek to defend these outbursts? Ricks writes of Eliot's withdrawing a second edition of *After Strange Gods*: "It is necessary to take offence at some things in *After Strange Gods*: it is necessary, too, to give Eliot credit for at least some rescinding of the book." But why is it necessary to adorn Eliot with credit unless you believe that the credit can erase the debt? It cannot, and Ricks's use of *Four Quartets* as poems in which Eliot atones for past sins is just sentimental.

No, we expect writers to be guardians of their age. Eliot was not only a guardian but something more — something approaching a prophet. His anti-Semitism, in one stroke, made him a hostage to history even as he ordered it into "a pattern of timeless moments". For history, in the lifetime of Eliot, was not England, or order, or even the brave project of modernism. Or rather, it was not only these things. In a world lit by lightning, it was also the smell of flesh burning and the sound of people screaming.

Barbie at the Black Stump

FICTION

John Nicholson

RURAL PURSUITS

By Renate Yates

Century, £10.95

IN THE MIDDAY SUN

By Guy Bellamy

Viking, £11.95

WORKING FOR LOVE

By Tessa Dahl

Michael Joseph, £10.95

Tension is mounting at Rams Run, ancestral seat of the New South Wales Ramsbottoms. Two hundred of Australia's finest are due to celebrate the bicentenary of the family's arrival Down Under. Current head of the clan, Dinger Ramsbottom, a man of few words, usually leaves the social niceties to Skye, his dreamy wife, who in turn is more than happy to delegate housekeeping chores to her mother-in-law Thelma.

So neither woman is comfortable when Dinger decides to assume personal responsibility for organizing the largest shindig the state has seen for decades. It's not the banqueting arrangements that pose the problem. They simply call for vast numbers of the species that make up most of Rams Run's population to be slaughtered and roasted. The local airstrip has been specially prepared to receive jets filled with more exotic food-stuffs — and of course the guests.

Compiling so large a guest list was a nightmare for Skye, until she had the bright idea of consulting Lorna Bimberston. Fortunately the legendary ex-charity hostess is only too eager to lay aside her memoirs to help stage-manage an event that could provide the perfect setting for her ultimate social and political coup.

Renate Yates is an accomplished farcuse. She is also no slouch as a satirist — as she demonstrated in her first book, *Social Death*. The new one, *Rural Pursuits*, is more ambitious. It boasts a huge cast, much furious activity, and even a special guest appearance by the Scourge of Tucker's Gully — a long-suffering ghost determined to make his mark on the historic proceedings. Not everything Miss Yates attempts comes off. But there's more than enough here to stimulate the most jaded palate.

Guy Bellamy is another writer who believes in giving value for money. He, too, is an observer of social mores who prefers the rapier to the bludgeon. Actually, the latter might seem a more appropriate choice for his new novel, since two of the three central characters have committed quite serious felonies. Lying in the bath one morning, crossword addict Daniel Ward suddenly saw a way to siphon a million pounds out of the banking system which

called for no more aggressive action than signing a few cheques.

Matthew Ward's contempts with the law was even more impeccably white-collar: good, old-fashioned tax evasion. So the brothers find themselves forced to establish a new life in one of those corners of a foreign land that have unfortunately become for ever England — in this case, the Costa del Sol. Despite the occasional visit by a nosy British journalist and the debilitating trappings of expatriate life — too much gin and wife-swapping — all goes well until upright widower John Ward decides to spend his 60th birthday with his sons. Since they can hardly return to Blighty, he has no option but to head for the sun. In the Midday Sun is an amiable book, pleasantly written: a gentle reproach for children who disappoint their parents.

It is difficult to imagine anything more different than Tessa Dahl's first novel. Working for Love is an exhorting indictment of the damage that parents can inflict on children. Like Miss Dahl herself, the heroine of this book, Molly, is the daughter of parents who both enjoy great professional success. Her father is an artist, her mother an actress who suffers a series of strokes. The whole family is accident-prone, and Molly develops an unhealthy affinity for the role of victim.

The structure of the book is a relentless counterpoint between the collapse of Molly's marriage to a much older workaholic, and flashbacks to episodes in her earlier life which explain why she cannot protect herself by breaking with him. It's all very harrowing — definitely not for the emotionally squeamish.

NEW HARDBACKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books:

All Things Considered, by Bernard Levin (Cape, £11.95) Collected pieces by the mischievous libertarian Sage and Tease of Wapping.
Aulus Gellius, by Lothar Holtorf-Stevens (Duckworth, £25) Comprehensive study of author of *Attic Nights*, a window on Antonine world.
Corruption and the Decline of Rome, by Ramsey MacMullen (Yale, £18.95) Peculation not fornication as cause of Decline and Fall.
Medieval Civilization, by Jacques Le Goff, translated by Julia Barrow (Blackwell, £19.95) French academic on 400-1500, die- and synchrotron.
Sor Juana, Her Life and Her World, by Octavio Paz, translated by Margaret Sayers Peden (Faber, £27.50) Mexico's leading poet on the sprightly 17th-century Mexican poetess turned nun of New Spain.
Testament, by John Romer (Michael O'Mara/Channel Four, £17.95) History of the Bible and its world broadcast by popular Egyptologist.
The Art of Egon Schiele, by Erwin Misch (Phaidon, £30) Anguished nudes and colourful landscapes by Expressionist disciple of Klimt.
The Dictionary of Outrageous Quotations, compiled by C.R.S. Marsden (Xanadu, £6.95) Boobs, rudes, Reaganisms, by themes.
The Etchings of Claude Lorrain, by Lino Mannocci (Yale, £50) First catalogue raisonné of the etchings by artist and printmaker.
Venice from the Air, by Guido Rossi & Franco Masiero (Weldarfeld & Nicholson, £16.95) Exciting new angles on the beloved city in colour.
1914-1918, Voices & Images of the Great War, by Lyn Macdonald (Michael Joseph, £15.95) Contemporary accounts and illustrations.
Women in Khaki, by Roy Terry (Harrap Columbus, £14.95) Illustrated history of the British woman soldier for golden jubilee of WRAC.

Bulldog in waiting

David Hunt

THE CAGED LION



Winston Spencer Churchill 1932-1940
By William Manchester
Michael Joseph, £17.95

"The matter of Britain" was the title under which the cycle of Arthurian legends was known in the 13th century. It might well be appropriated by historians of seven centuries later to describe the events leading up to 1940, when the island was first roused and later rescued by a greater *dix bellorum* than Arthur. In both cases an established narrative has come to be accepted, embellished to taste with legendary accretions, and the merit of successive writers lies in seeing how well they can execute their individual variations on this grand theme.

William Manchester acquires himself well in this second volume of a planned trilogy; the first, entitled *The Last Lion*, covered 1874 to 1932. His narrative of the Thirties runs to 700 pages and is buttressed by lengthy and painstaking research. Almost every page bears witness to herculean labours in the archives. (At one point, however, he has followed Martin Gilbert in misreading Lambeth for Lambert in a Churchill letter about the Protectorate chapter in *A History of the English Speaking Peoples*, which inspires him to engaging but irrelevant remarks on Elizabethan Calvinism.) The list of sources is impressive in its comprehensiveness. He has also interviewed to good effect practically every possible surviving witness. He has been much assisted, and his pages

enlivened, by the evidence of Lady Soames; the influence of Martin Gilbert's voluminous biography is manifest throughout. Into this mass of material he has inserted at random extracts from a copious anthology of Churchillian wit-cisms. Some of them, in my opinion, are not authentic, and many belong to the Fifties.

In a work of such length it is hardly surprising that errors should occur. He claims for instance, that "Hacha (ex-President of Czechoslovakia) was appointed governor of the German Protectorate of Bohemia and Mo-

ravia"; it was naturally a German, in fact von Neurath. Friends of Dick Crossman (identified by Mr Manchester as "a future Cabinet member") who remember him as an Oxford City Councillor in 1939, will be startled to find him elevated to the House of Commons and credited with a speech in praise of Goering. It is not true that *The Times* refused to print its parliamentary correspondent's account of Duff Cooper's resignation speech and that Geoffrey Dawson insisted on an insertion calling it "a damp squib"; it got two columns and the offensive phrase is not there.

Both in this book and in others dealing with this period I have been struck by the fact that Churchill, when collecting information on German rearmament, concentrated so greatly on air power. In this he was following current strategic thought, which held that future wars would be decided by an immediate knock-out blow from the air. The Committee of Imperial Defence estimated that London would be reduced to ruins in a very few days from the declaration of war, with 600,000 dead and 1.2 million wounded. What neither he nor the others realized was that the Germans regarded the *Luftwaffe* as ancillary to the army. This error compounded his other great error: that the French army would be able to resist a German land attack.

Arms and man

John Brooke-Little

A HERALD'S WORLD

By Anthony Wagner
Sir Anthony Wagner,
College of Arms, £25

This is the autobiography of someone who has been a herald for almost 59 years. Wagner, once Garter King of Arms, now Clarenceux, published this book on his 80th birthday.

"Blindness" is the title of the last chapter and it goes a long way to explain the structure of the book. In 1984 Wagner was suddenly taken desperately ill. Four months and three major operations later, snatched from the jaws of death, he was struck with sudden, total, and, as it proved, irreversible blindness.

It needs little imagination to conceive what this meant to a scholar and an author who had lived much of his life with his pen in his hand. Yet with enormous fortitude, the unstinting support of his wife Gillian, family, and friends, and the use of modern scientific aids he came to terms with his affliction, and his autobiography is the first book he has ever dictated. He asserts that one positive advantage of his blindness is that his long-term memory is perhaps more acute than ever. This, combined with the less rigid style which the dictated word had over the written, ideally suits this

organized ramble over a long life.

Naturally most of the chapters refer directly or indirectly to Wagner's life as a herald and genealogist, and it is laced with anecdotes and personalities culled from his wide acquaintance and 17 years as Garter King of Arms. He was torn between architecture and genealogy, but although he chose a career that embraced the latter discipline, he has sustained a strong love for and knowledge of architecture, which has greatly enriched his life.

"George Bell, he writes, 'who was Garter before me, rightly said that Garter is nobody but meets everybody. That helps to make the job interesting, despite the fact that some of the everybody's are in truth nobodies.' Wagner is fortunate that his life has been full of everybody, many of them turning out to be somebodies who became friends.

On the Saturday Christmas books pages: critics' choice, and best reads by categories

IN THE T L S THIS WEEK

ARTISTS AT THE LIMITS

EDITH WHARTON

IN HER LETTERS

THOM GUNN ON

THE POETRY OF

ROBERT DUNCAN

ROBERT BOYERS'S

'AFTER THE AVANT-GARDE'

MALISE RUTHVEN

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CENSORSHIP

CHILDREN'S BOOKS FOR
CHRISTMAS — A SIX-PAGE
FEATURE

T L S

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INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Review section on Saturday by a preview of the week ahead. Items should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XX

BOOKING KEY
★ Seats available
★ Returns only
(D) Access for disabled

THEATRE
LONDON

★ **ASYLUM:** In Paul Kember's new play Sarah Miles is one of the inmates confronting bulldozers, a video documentary crew and the bewildering world outside.
Lyric Theatre, King St, W6 (01-741 2211). Tue-Fri 7.30pm. Mon-Sat 7.45-10.15pm. Mats Wed 2.30-5pm and Sat 4-8.30pm. Mats 25; Evs 25-210.

★ **A CHRISTMAS CAROL:** Jon Strickland as Scrooge in David Homan's adaptation for children and for grown-ups.
The Young Vic, 66 The Oct, SE1 (01-828 6393). Tue-Fri 7.30pm. Previews from today. 2pm. Press night Dec 7, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Adults 27.50; children and concessions 13.75. (D)

★ **THE CHURCHILL PLAY:** See caption.
Barbican Theatre, Barbican Centre, Silk St, EC2 (01-438 8891). Tue-Fri 7.30pm. Mon-Sat 2pm and 7.30pm. Press night Nov 30, 7pm. Evs 25-210. Dec 1, then in repertoire.

★ **HEART-THROB:** Willy, poignant play co-authored by Jeremy Seabrook: two women writing letters to a prisoner in a top security jail.
Bush Theatre, Shepherd's Bush Green, W12 (01-743 3388). Tue-Fri 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat 8pm. Evs 25.

★ **INVENTING A NEW COLOUR:** Successful co-production with Bristol Old Vic: wartime soldiers and children conspire to blow up a school with a home-made bomb.
Theatre Upstairs, Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Sq, SW1 (01-730 2554). Tue-Fri 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.30-9.30pm. Mats Sat 3.30-5.30pm. Evs 25-210. Dec 1, then in repertoire.

★ **RICHARD II:** Derek Jacobi heads a strong company, with Robert Edson, Barbara Jefford and David Rintoul in the roles.
Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Rd, W2 (01-438 2294). Tue-Fri 7.30pm. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat 7.30pm. Mats Thurs and Sat 2pm. Evs 25-210. (D)

★ **SINGLE SPIES:** Alan Bennett double-bill: Simon Callow plays Burgess in "An Englishman Abroad"; Sean Pertwee plays Blunt in "A Question of Attribution".
National Theatre (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (01-828 2252). Tue-Fri 7.30pm. Previews from today. 7.45pm. Press night Dec 1, 7pm. Then in repertoire. Previews and Sat mats 25.50-212. From Dec 1, 25.50-214.

★ **LONG RUNNERS:** Beyond Reasonable Doubt: Outside Theatre (01-734 1166). ★ Cats: New London Theatre (01-405 0072). ★ Follies: Shaftesbury Theatre (01-379 5389). ★ 42nd Street: Drury Lane Theatre (01-836 8108). ★ Les Liaisons Dangereuses: Ambassador Theatre (01-434 8111). ★ The Life and Girl: Adelphi Theatre (01-734 7913). ★ Les Misérables: Palace Theatre (01-434 0908). ★ The Mousetrap: St Martin's Theatre (01-836 1440). ★ Run for your Wife: Criccieth Theatre (01-830 2110). ★ The Secret Garden: Apollo Victoria (01-828 8865).

OUT OF TOWN

★ **LEICESTER:** ★ Gays and Dolls: Everyone's favourite musical: The Haymarket's Christmas Show. Haymarket Theatre, Belgrave Gate (0353 530021). Mon, Tues, Thurs 7.30pm; Wed, Fri, Sat 8pm. Mats Sat and Wed 4pm. Evs 25-111. Until Jan 28. (D)

FILMS

★ Also on national release
★ Advance booking possible

★ **COLORS (18):** Vivid crime drama from director Dennis Hopper, with Sean Penn and Robert Downey as Los Angeles cops of clashing temperaments, assigned to the CRASH unit. (121 min).
Cannon Chelsea (01-352 5096). Progs 1.40, 4.15, 6.45, 9.25.
Metropolitan (01-727 6705). Progs 3.20, 5.50, 8.20.
Odeon West End (01-530 6111). Progs 12.20, 3.00, 6.00, 8.30.
Odeon High Kensington (01-602 9644). Progs 12.45, 3.25, 6.05, 8.45. Late Sat 11.30.
Odeon Swiss Cottage (01-252 5905/596 3057). Progs 2.00, 5.30, 8.10.

★ **A FISH CALLED WANDA (15):** The adventures of two scheming Americans (James Lee Curtis and Kevin Kline), an uptight English barrister (John Cleese) and an animal rights fanatic (Michael Palin), who own a fish called Wanda. Scripted by John Cleese. Directed by Ealing veteran Charles Crichton (109 min).
Cannon Oxford St (01-536 0310). Progs 1.50, 4.55, 8.05. Late Fri, Sat 11.15.
Screen on the Green (01-226 3520). Progs 2.00, 4.05, 6.40, 8.40. Late Fri, Sat 11.15.

★ **THE NOTTING HILL (11):** 1947. Progs 2.05 (not Sun), 4.10, 6.30, 9.00. Late Fri, Sat 11.15.
Screen on the Green (01-226 3520). Progs 2.00, 4.05, 6.40, 8.40. Late Fri, Sat 11.15.

★ **Colin Welland (above) plays Winston Churchill in The Churchill Play by Howard Brenton, which is being revived by the RSC at the Barbican (see listing). First staged in 1978, it has been extensively revised for this new production. It is set in an internment camp, where the men are staging an entertainment about Winston Churchill, and combines elements of farce, political thriller with a passionate defence of democracy. The cast also includes James Ellis, who last worked with Welland 25 years ago in BBC TV's Z-Cars.**

★ **FROM SALZBURG:** The Hagen Quartet, featuring from Mozart's birthplace, offer Beethoven's last Quartet, Op 135, Wolf's Italian Serenade and, with Audrey Luna (soprano) in the last two movements, Schoenberg's Quartet Op 10.

★ **WAIN HAMMER:** The RSC Wind Ensemble gives forth with Dabry's A Plain Man's Hammer, Copland's El



King of the scrap metal sculptors

Last year's Turner Prize winner Richard Deacon, a retrospective exhibition of whose work opens tomorrow, is the brand leader of New Sculpture. His market share, including no fewer than 16 pieces in the Saatchi Collection, easily exceeds that of fellow New Sculptors, Tony Cragg (who won this year's Turner Prize), Alison Wilding, Richard Wentworth and Bill Woodrow. This movement of

young British artists, whose works are stylistically and thematically quite distinct from one another, has achieved considerable international recognition. Using scrap or mundane materials, the sculptors strive to create a species of object which claims deep metaphorical significance and associations. *Bounds of Sense*, 1987 (left), is 9ft high and like other New Sculptures, sits directly on the floor. It is constructed from metal sheeting patterned with pop rivets and screws, and rough, laminated hardboard which is crudely spliced and has cozed globules of hardened glue. In common with several other objects made by Deacon, this piece consists of a swirling metal member with a tangle of wooden loops. Much of his work is similarly flamboyant and decorative, though equally resistant to convincing explanation.

The artist has stated that "the areas of meaning which the works occupy have primarily to do with perception... and the relationships between perceptions, sexuality and the world." Richard Deacon's retrospective is at Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High St, London E1 (01-377 0107). Tuesday to Saturday 11am-5pm, Wednesday 11am to 8pm, free, until January 22.

Month in the Country and the Don Quixote past de close.
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1065). 7.30-10.15pm, £1-232.

SOLDAT: Ashley Page's new work for Rambert Dance Company, with Cunningham's *Septet*, and *Elysium and Rhapsody in Blue* by Richard Alston.
Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041-331 1234). 7.30-10pm. Evs 27.50-10. (D)

ROCK

★ **SANDIE SHAW:** The doyenne of Strokes pop star chic whose career was given the kiss of life by the University of London Union, Male St, London WC1 (01-580 9551). 7.30pm, 25.

★ **MELANIE:** Can it possibly be the *Candies in the Rain* child of the Woodstock era, now 41-year-old Melanie Safka?
Theatre Royal, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1065). 7.30pm, 27.50-10. (D)

★ **SALT-PEPPER:** Tough girls rule duo with DJ Spinderella and team of dancers in attendance.
University of East Anglia, The Plain, Norwich (0693 505047). 7.30pm, 25.50.

GALLERIES

★ **IMPRESSIONIST PAINTING AND SCULPTURE:** Works by, among others, Bonnard, Redon and Boudin.
JPL Fine Arts, 25 Davies St, London W1 (01-438 2620). Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, free, until Jan 27.

★ **LA NATURE MORTE:** Paintings of flowers, fruit and game from 1600 to 1900.
Raphael Villa, 11 Duke St, London SW1 (01-438 1144). Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, free, until Dec 23.

★ **THE SUESS EXHIBITION:** Some 18 artists and craftsmen from Sussex, including water-colourist Edgar Holdway, show together in London for the first time.
Mail Galleries, 17 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1 (01-438 8844). daily 10am-5pm, free, until Nov 28.

★ **CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION:** Works by a celebrated collection of artists, including Greenwell Printmakers, 1a Greenwell Market, London SE10 (01-858 1589). Tue-Sun 10.30-5.30pm free, until Jan 31.

WALKS

★ **ANCIENT INNS AND TAVERNS OF DICKENS'S LONDON:** meet Temple tube, 7pm. £3 (01-477 4291).

★ **COCKNEYS, CRIMINALS AND JACK THE RIPPER:** A PIRATE TALK. Meet at Whitechapel tube, 7.30pm. £1 (01-382 3414 or 01-741 9595).

OTHER EVENTS

★ **CURRYEN STUDIO SALE:** The Printer's Archive of the celebrated studio comes up for auction today. Included are works by Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth, Graham Sutherland, John Piper, Elizabeth Frink, Edward Bawden and other artists such as David Hockney's *The Print Collector*.
Bloomsbury Book Auctions, 3 and 4 Hereward Street, off Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (01-638 3393). Viewing 9.30am-11am. Sale 11am and 2pm.

★ **CITY OF LONDON INTERNATIONAL ART FAIR:** Claims to be the only international art fair to be limited by quality rather than by date, period or medium. 100 stands of leading dealers from throughout the UK. Also the same venue is the City of London Antiques Fair.
Barbican Exhibition Hall, Golden Lane, London EC2 (01-538 4378). Pedestrian access via Barbican Centre, level 8. Today and tomorrow 11am-9pm. Sat 11am-7pm. Sun 11am-5pm. Entrance to both fairs 25p including illustrated catalogue of either fair. Until Sunday.

★ **Theatre:** Jeremy Kingston; Films: Geoff Brown; Concerts: Max Harrison; Opera: Hilary Finch; Rock: David Sinclair; Jazz: Clive Davis; Dance: John Percival; Galleries: David Lee; Walks: Stephen Billen; Other Events: Judy Frostberg.

LAW OF DESIRE (18):

Outrageous Spanish film celebrating the absurdities of human desire through the adventures of a gay film director and his transsexual sister. Written and directed by Pedro Almodóvar. (100 min).
Muir (01-437 0757). Progs 3.00 (not Sun), 5.00, 7.00, 9.00.
Screen on the Hill (01-435 3366). Progs 2.40, 4.40, 7.00, 9.00. Late Fri, Sat 11.15.

TWO TCHAIKOVSKYS:

The Moscow Radio Symphony Orchestra is conducted by Vladimir Fedoseyev in Peter Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No 1 (Nikolai Demchenko, soloist), Basil Tchaikovsky's Capriccio on an English Theme, Khachaturian's *Masquerade* Suite and Scriabin's *Poem of Ecstasy*.
The Guildhall, Portsmouth (0705 824555). 7.30pm, £4.60-27.05. (D)

CONCERTS

★ **SCHUBERT PLUS:** Kicking off yet another series, Roger Norrington conducts the London Classical Players in the first programme of "Schubert and the Early Romantics". Besides Schubert's Symphony No 5 this has Weber's *Oberon* Overture and Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 5 "Emperor" with Mervyn Tan (fortepiano) as soloist.
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-828 8800). 7.45pm, £5-15.50.

★ **ALL TCHAIKOVSKY:** In another of the All-Tchaikovsky concerts marking his 10 years as Principal Guest Conductor of the RPO, Yuro Temirkanov offers his interpretations of the March Song, Symphony No 4 and, with Michael Rusk as the soloist, the Piano Concerto No 1.
Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-828 8800). 7.30-9.30pm, £4-22.

★ **FROM SALZBURG:** The Hagen Quartet, featuring from Mozart's birthplace, offer Beethoven's last Quartet, Op 135, Wolf's Italian Serenade and, with Audrey Luna (soprano) in the last two movements, Schoenberg's Quartet Op 10.

★ **WAIN HAMMER:** The RSC Wind Ensemble gives forth with Dabry's A Plain Man's Hammer, Copland's El

★ **SEAN DOUGLAS:** (arranged Hindley), a suite of courtly dances by Rameau (arranged Schaefer), Johann Strauss's *Hunting Polka*, Germain's *Rhapsody in Blue*, etc.
Royal Scottish Academy of Music, 100 Finnieston St, Glasgow (041-332 4101). 7.30pm, 25.

★ **JAN GABRIEL:** On tour with a quartet including percussionist Nana Vasconcelos, the Norwegian saxophonist serves up material from his new LP *Legend of The Seven Dreams*.
St Donat's Arts Centre, Llanelli Major (04465 4444). 8pm, 25.

★ **STAN TRACEY:** Performing a duet with his regular bassist Roy Babbington.
Vortex Jazz Bar, 139 Stoke Newington Church St, London N16 (01-254 6516). 8.30pm, 23.50.

★ **GEORGIE FAME:** Back until Saturday with her new album *Stardust*. Support is from the Mike Carr Trio.
Roulette Club, 47 Firth St, London W1 (01-438 0747). 8.30pm, £10 (members £2).

★ **THE SPIRIT OF FUGUE:** The second premier of the season by David Bintley for the Royal Ballet, with Apollo A.

BEST SELLING BOOKS

For the week ending November 19

FICTION
1 The Edge, Dick Francis... Michael Joseph £11.95
2 Oscar and Lucinda, Peter Carey... Faber £10.95
3 Spy Hook, Len Deighton... Hutchinson £11.95
4 Masterclass, Morris West... Hutchinson £10.95
5 The Cardinal of the Kremlin, Tom Clancy... Collins £11.95

NON-FICTION
1 Charles: A Biography, Anthony Holden... Weidenfeld £12.95
2 A Brief History of Time, Stephen Hawking... Bantam £14.95
3 Reflection on Things Past, Lord Carrington... Collins £12.50
4 Pocket Wine Book 1988, Hugh Johnson... Mitchell Beazley £5.50
5 Macmillan 1894-1956, Alistair Horne... Macmillan £16.95

PAPERBACKS
1 The Peat in Myself, Christobel Beisenberg... Corgi £ 3.95
2 At Home With The Royle Brothers, Flux Brothers... BSC £ 7.95
3 New Penguin Guide to Compact Discs... Penguin £12.95
4 The Mafia Killed Kennedy, David Schelm... Star £ 6.99
5 Chatterbox, Peter Ackroyd... Abacus £ 3.99
6 Moon Tiger, Penelope Lively... Penguin £ 3.99
7 Green Consumer Guide, Elington/Hallies... Gollancz £ 3.99
8 Wolf Winter, Clara Francis... Gollancz £ 3.99
9 Not That Sort of Girl, Mary Wesley... Black Swan £ 3.95
10 The Radiant Way, Margaret Drabble... Penguin £ 3.95

Source: Hachards, 187 Piccadilly, London W1

OPERA

★ **SIMON BOCCACCINI:** David Alden's strikingly designed production for English National Opera, now conducted by Peter Robinson and with cast led by Malcolm Donnelly.
Coliseum, St Martins Lane, London WC2 (01-536 3161). 7.30-10.10pm, £2.50-22.

★ **LA TRAVIATA:** Göran Järnveit's 1920s style production for Welsh National Opera reaches Southampton.
Coliseum, St Martins Lane, London WC2 (01-536 3161). 7.30-10.10pm, £2.50-22.

JAZZ

★ **JIMMY GIFFUR:** A rare UK appearance by the West Coast soloist reads player, now leading an electric quartet with Pat Levin on keyboards.
The Harry Beckwith Quartet provides support.
Half Moon Theatre, 213 Mile End Rd, London E1 (01-730 4000). 8pm, £7.

★ **CHARLIE MARIANO:** The United Jazz and Rock Ensemble's soloist

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1728

ACROSS
1 Israeli Six-Day War minister (5,5)
2 Understood (7)
3 Run away to marry (5)
10 Platform (4)
11 Kidnapper (8)
13 Bet (5)
14 Irritable (5)
16 German motorway (8)
18 Red planet (4)
21 Captured (5)
22 Spectimen (7)
23 One-sided (10)

DOWN
1 Permanent anchor (7)
2 Wise man (4)
3 Society institution (13)
4 Sufficient (8)
5 Approximately (5)
6 Breeding stock (4)
7 Reveal unintentionally (6)
12 Inquiry court (8)
13 Riches (6)

15 Surgeon's knife (7)
17 Gift voucher (5)
19 Kidney fat (4)
20 Young salmon (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1727
ACROSS: 3 Guest 5 Chef 8 Minor 10 Avalanche 11 Lyric 12 Ink 13 Range 14 Santa 15 Sun 16 Young 20 Mar 22 Udder 23 Blindfold 24 Gangs 25 Tail 26 Isle
DOWN: 1 Ambler 2 Infringe 3 Gracie Fields 4 Swanks 6 Hack 7 Fierce 9 Barnaby Rudge 15 Abundant 16 Sorbet 17 Emboss 19 Garish 21 Pill

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 24

BERM
(a) The space between the inner lip of a ditch and the foot of a rampart, from Old Norse *berm*, a berm.
(b) To prevent the earth from rolling into the ditch, and serves likewise to pass and repass. As it is in some degree intermediate in the last two senses, the word is getting footing, most of the modern engineers reject it.
LINDUM
(c) The Roman name for the legendary fortress and colony of Lincoln, founded to house the Ninth Legion, "Hispans" in AD 61/2.
STYLOBATE
(d) A low wall supporting a line of columns, from the Greek *stulos* a pillar + *bates* to walk: "The temple rests on a stylobate, having a finely moulded base and surface."
SACELLUM
(e) The shrine for the standards in the CO HQ of a regiment, of political, religious and moral character, and the altar of the sacred + -ium; Virgil: "You will take occasional frankincense to your primitive sacellum."

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

The above position is taken from the game between Capablanca (White) and Blackburne (Black), played in St Petersburg 1914. White, to move, wins. The winning move will be given in tomorrow's Times.
Solution to yesterday's position: White wins with 1 Nxf7+ or 1...Rxg7 2 Qxf6

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

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TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Greta Carslaw51
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Moments of triumph

TELEVISION CHOICE

There are some television documentary subjects that are almost untouchable and one of them is The Exam. Pick an assortment of candidates, ask them about their hopes and fears, take them through the ordeal itself and save the results until the very last second before the final credits roll. It is fair to bet that not a single viewer will switch off. Having enjoyed, at a safe distance, the agonies of people being put through the wringer, the spectator cannot resist a vicarious participation in the moment of triumph or defeat. The sense of voyeurism is complete. The formula is exploited to perfection in Michael Houlihan's film for 40 Minutes (BBC2, 9.30pm), called *Making the Grade*. It follows four candidates through the examinations, which have been going since 1889, of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music. The candidates range in age from seven-year-old Mark Finnan to a computer programmer of 33. They play four different instruments: piano, trombone, saxophone and violin. There are males and females, though feminists may complain that the males have a three-one majority. One of the quartet is a bag of nerves, while the coolest is the seven-year-old. The examiner, Ian Curran, organist at the Royal Hospital in Chelsea, says adults are three times as nervous as children. Remembering the examiners of his youth, "fierce old men sitting behind desks", he tries not to be fierce. But he still sits behind a huge desk. The saxophonist says it is best to go in expecting to fail. That way a pass is a bonus. But the 16-year-old trombonist will be upset with anything less than a distinction. Does he get one? It would be sneaking to tell.



Young talent: Mark Finnan calmly enters his first piano exam while older candidates try to beat their nerves (BBC2, 9.30pm)

Sub-titled *A Democrat in Search of Democracy*, Open Space (BBC2, 7.55pm) gives the floor to the Cassandra of the inner cities, Margaret Simey. She got into trouble in 1981 for saying that the Soviet riots were the inevitable outburst of a degenerate society. As a Tory councillor for 23 years she could claim to know. Her thesis is that democracy is failing in this country because people have little say in what happens to them. They cast their votes and then watch their elected representatives vanish into the sunset. Lady Simey tried accountability when she was chairman of the local police committee. She got into trouble for that. In her mature years she remains a formidable, eloquent, witty and passionate. I would not like to have been the chief constable.

Peter Waymark

Drawing a conclusion

RADIO CHOICE

Bill Tidy, batting first in the Cartoonists series (Radio 4, 9.45am) pleads "guilty but insane" to the charge of being a Northerner, and condemns himself by insisting that clog dancers are the finest folk ever to walk the earth. One other disaster that fascinates him is the Titanic ("By Jove! Isn't it nice and quiet now the women and kids are out of the way?"). Says the chap on the sloping deck: The cartoonist who has created a dynasty of tripe manufacturers does not talk the other kind of tripe to his interviewer Frank Whitford. Gillian Clarke, introduced by Sue MacGregor in Conversation Piece (Radio 4, 11.25am), as the leading woman poet in Wales, objects on both grounds. She does not beat the field, she says, and hates being called a woman poet. Fair enough: she is a



Tidy work: Bill Tidy talks to Frank Whitford (R4, 9.45am)

"Ga puts Menholatum on her sciatica, and Carey soaks the clothes in Parazone." In adulthood, like seamlessly joins the physical and the metaphysical - Soviet industry and the wonderworks of God. "Let us praise the hydro-engineers and Five Year Plans let us praise the designer of ice mountains, glittering blue on a far horizon, like a wild idea. Now you know why she thinks it irrelevant to make an issue of her sex." At the risk of being thought sexist by Gillian Clarke, I must tell you that *Woman's Hour* (Radio 4, 2.00pm) features a book written (Rosamond Lehmann), adapted (Ann Rees-Jones) and read (Emily Richard) by women. *The Gipsy's Baby* could equally well have been written by a man, but it wasn't, and there's an end to it - except to say that between them, the women have tackled a man-sized job to perfection.

Peter Daville

BBC1

- 6.00 Ceefax AM.
6.40 Gilt Lamb in Nightclub Daze (b/w). 6.55 Weather.
7.00 Breakfast Time with John Stapleton and Sally Magnusson. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25; regional news and travel reports at 7.27, 7.57 and 8.27. 8.55 Regional news and weather followed by Open Air. Eamonn Holmes and Mike Smith receive viewers' comments on yesterday's television offerings.
9.20 Kilroy! Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject.
10.00 News and weather followed by Going for Gold (r). 10.25 Children's BBC introduced by Andy Crane begins with Playbus 10.30 The Bunyip 10.55 Five to Eleven. Gerard Green reads a viewer's poem.
11.00 News and weather followed by Open Air with Mavis Nicholson and Eamonn Holmes. Includes nine members of the cast of *Neighbours* discussing with viewers the success of the soap.
12.00 News and weather followed by Dayline Live with coverage of the closing stages of the Lombard RAC Rally; and music from Womack and Womack. 12.55 Regional news and weather.
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Weather. 1.30 Neighbours. Paul and Gail discover that their business marriage does have unforeseen advantages. 1.50 Going for Gold. European general knowledge quiz presented by Henry Kelly.
2.15 Film: If You Knew Suzie (1948, b/w) starring Eddi Auld and Joan Davis. Musical comedy about a vaudeville couple who come into a fortune and return to their old-fashioned home town. Directed by Gordon M. Douglas. 3.40 Bugs Bunny in Buckaroo Bugs.

BBC2

- 9.00 Ceefax 9.20 Daytime on Two: farming Atlantic salmon and red deer. 9.40 Fighting racism. 10.00 Science: hearing. 10.25 Thinkabout 10.40 Scotland. 11.00 A Birmingham workshop. 11.40 Britain's young refugees. 12.10 Maths: statistics. 12.30 The television - good or bad? 12.55 Television in the classroom.
1.25 Little Misses and the Mister Men (r). 1.40 Music Time (r). 2.00 News and weather followed by Watch (r).
2.15 International Snooker. The Tennant's UK Professional championship.
2.45 Rally Report. Live from the finish of the Lombard RAC Rally.
3.00 News and weather followed by International Snooker from Preston continued. 3.50 News, regional news and weather.
4.00 Catchword. Word game.
4.30 Travellers in Time: Wings Over Africa. A film made by Sir Alan Cobham in 1925 as he flew his single-engine aeroplane from Croydon to Cape Town (r).

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am.
6.25 Lucky Adders. Game show. The host is Lennie Bennett. 6.55 Themes news and weather. 7.00 The Place... Mike Scott chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject.
10.40 This Morning. Magazine series presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Today's edition includes advice on coping with family financial problems and furniture refurbishment. Plus national news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55.
12.10 Puddle Lane. Puppet series. 12.30 Santa Barbara. Glossy soap set in California.
1.00 News at One with Julia Somerville. 1.20 Themes news and weather.
1.30 Eye on the White House. The American television company ABC's coverage of the US presidential election campaign. 2.00 Richmond Hill. Australian drama serial. 2.55 Home Cookery Club. Somerset Puddles.
3.00 Give Us a Clue. Celebrity mine game. 3.25 Themes news and weather. 3.30 Sons and Daughters. Australian family drama series.
4.00 Button Moon. Puppets series. 4.10 The Rotties. 4.20 Dangersome. Cartoon adventures of a secret service rodent (r). (Oracle) 4.45 Gilbert's Fridge with Phil Cornwell and John Eccleston.
5.15 Blockbusters. Quiz game for teenagers, presented by Bob Holmes.
5.45 News with Fiona Armstrong.
6.00 Themes news and weather.
6.25 Help with advice for motorists on unleaded petrol.
6.30 Emmetdale Farm. Kate and Joe are caught in a compromising position.
7.00 The Bottom Line. Consumer affairs series.
7.30 Chain Letters. Word game presented by Andrew O'Connor.

CHANNEL 4

- 9.30 Schools.
12.00 The Parliament Programme.
12.30 Business Day.
1.00 IT for the Terrified. Information technology for the uninitiated. (Oracle) 1.30 Circuit Trainings. Basic electronics (r). (Oracle) 2.00 Horses. The role of the horse through the ages (r). (Oracle) 3.00 A People's War. The Home Front during the Second World War (r). (Oracle) 4.00 News on Sunday. A new religious series begins with a discussion with Canon Paul Oestreicher and Ivor Bulmer-Thomson on the controversy over Herodotus' proposed sale of the Mappa Mundi.
4.30 Fifteen to One.
5.00 Film: Please Teacher (1937, b/w) starring Bobbie Houston. Comedy about a man-about-town with a cash-flow problem. Directed by Stafford Dickens.
6.30 The Sharp End. Includes interviews with the leaders of the RCUK and Coided whether or not they think the Government is trying to drive a wedge between the two nursing unions.

VARIATIONS

- This Week 11.25 Weekend Outlook. 11.30 News. 11.35 News. 11.40 News. 11.45 News. 11.50 News. 11.55 News. 12.00 News. 12.05 News. 12.10 News. 12.15 News. 12.20 News. 12.25 News. 12.30 News. 12.35 News. 12.40 News. 12.45 News. 12.50 News. 12.55 News. 1.00 News. 1.05 News. 1.10 News. 1.15 News. 1.20 News. 1.25 News. 1.30 News. 1.35 News. 1.40 News. 1.45 News. 1.50 News. 1.55 News. 2.00 News. 2.05 News. 2.10 News. 2.15 News. 2.20 News. 2.25 News. 2.30 News. 2.35 News. 2.40 News. 2.45 News. 2.50 News. 2.55 News. 3.00 News. 3.05 News. 3.10 News. 3.15 News. 3.20 News. 3.25 News. 3.30 News. 3.35 News. 3.40 News. 3.45 News. 3.50 News. 3.55 News. 4.00 News. 4.05 News. 4.10 News. 4.15 News. 4.20 News. 4.25 News. 4.30 News. 4.35 News. 4.40 News. 4.45 News. 4.50 News. 4.55 News. 5.00 News. 5.05 News. 5.10 News. 5.15 News. 5.20 News. 5.25 News. 5.30 News. 5.35 News. 5.40 News. 5.45 News. 5.50 News. 5.55 News. 6.00 News. 6.05 News. 6.10 News. 6.15 News. 6.20 News. 6.25 News. 6.30 News. 6.35 News. 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MARKETS	THE POUND
FT 30 Share 1497.4 (+10.1)	US dollar 1.8335 (same)
FT-SE 100 1837.1 (+15.8)	W German mark 3.1463 (-0.0073)
USM (Datastream) 160.62 (+0.17)	Trade-weighted 77.2 (same)

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Opec still battles for accord

Opec ministers were still struggling last night to find a production agreement acceptable to Iraq and Iran, despite earlier hopes of an accord. Oil prices held steady, with Brent up 50 cents at \$13.50.

The cartel's 13 members were still focusing on a proposal which would grant *de facto* production parity with Iran's 2.4 million barrels a day.

"The major problem is not numbers, but a problem of political will," said one London-based trader.

BAT record

Nine-month profits from BAT, the tobacco, retailing and financial services group, topped £1 billion for the first time. After a 4 per cent rise, sales reached £12.75 billion and pre-tax profits were 13 per cent higher than last year at £1.089 billion.

Tempos, page 26

Bank arrests

The London Fraud Squad said seven people had been arrested on charges of conspiracy to defraud the Union Bank of Switzerland operations in London of about £32 million on or about June 29.

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2088.37 (+10.87)
Dow Jones	
Tokyo	
Nikkei Average	Closed
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	2633.85 (+34.86)
Amsterdam Gen	272.0 (+2.3)
Sydney AO	1490.7 (+12.3)
Frankfurt	
Commerzbank	1597.6 (+10.0)
Brussels	
General	5367.0 (+6.9)
Paris CAC	381.1 (+2.4)
Zurich SKA Gen	495.5 (+4.2)
London	
FT-30 All-Share	1497.4 (+10.1)
FT-100	1837.1 (+15.8)
FT Gold Mines	168.0 (+5.3)
FT Fixed Interest	97.04 (+0.04)
FT Govt Secs	98.19 (+0.10)
Recent Issues	Page 26
Closing prices	Page 31

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Woodworth	263 1/2 (+130)
Pochins	895p (+100)
Storehouse	213p (+130)
Whitbread B	735p (+95p)
Taylor Woodrow	81 1/2 (+130)
Elys Wembley	735p (+100)
Ash & Lacey	775p (+100)
M&M	855p (+200)
Hammerson A	854p (+170)
Assoc Int Ports	498 1/2 (+16p)
P Bilton	504p (+150)
Britton	385p (+150)
Chesterfield	842p (+280)
Estates & Agency	280p (+150)
P&O	581 1/2 (+120)
Greycoat	440p (+130)
Land Sec	609p (+140)
FALLS:	
Magnet	206p (-110)
Volax	410p (-100)
Tomlinsons	502 1/2 (-100)
Closing prices	24504
SEAG Volume	586.6m

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	12%
3-month interbank	12 1/2%-12%
3-month eligible bills	11 1/2%-11%
buying rate	
US: Prime Rate	10%
Federal Funds	8 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills	7.99-7.98%
30-year bonds	96 1/2%-98 1/4%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£1.8335	\$1.8375
DM1.463	DM1.7167
SwF1.4502	SwF1.4502
FF10.7443	FF10.7443
Yen222.22	Yen222.22
Index:77.2	Index:77.2
ECU £0.557484	SDR £0.548702

GOLD

London Fixing:	
AM \$417.35	PM \$419.25
close \$419.50-420.00	(2226.00-228.50)
New York:	
Comex \$419.30-419.80	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Dec)	pm \$13.50bbl (\$13.40)
Denotes latest trading price	

THE TIMES STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

Market news on Stock-watch yesterday included:

Hammerson A (02817) went 184p better and the ordinary (01615) 156p after a hostile bid from Rodamco, the Dutch group; other property shares were ahead with MEPC (01081) gaining 13p and Land Securities (01417) 10p; trading statements saw Jarvis Porter (02715) drop 16p but Hogg Robinson (04326) gain 7p.

Recent additions include: Portneiron 03492 and Darby Group 03495.

Calls charged 5p for 8 seconds peak, 12 seconds off peak inc. VAT.

Labour attacks 'insider deal of the century' British Steel priced at 125p to ensure success

By Carol Ferguson and Richard Ford

British Steel, billed as one of the world's most profitable steel companies, is to be sold off at 125p a share, valuing the whole company at £2.5 billion.

Lord Young, the Trade and Industry Secretary, has pitched the price at the very bottom of City expectations. Analysts were expecting a price of 130p, or even 135p, and it is believed that SG Warburg and Samuel Montagu, advisers to the issue, were looking for more.

However, political considerations, especially the Government's desire to bring in the public, resulted in Lord

Young over-riding advice that he could risk a higher price. It reflects the Government's desire that the first large privatization since the British Petroleum fiasco and the market crash should be a success.

The decision to go for a low price has pleased the market, but brought Labour criticism. Mr Bryan Gould, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, said: "This is the insider deal of the century to put the privatization show back on the road. This sale under-values British Steel by well over £200 million. It is being offered at this bargain basement price for sordid political reasons. The Government cannot afford another BP fiasco and Lord Young is using British Steel as a loss

leader in the hope of gathering support for water and electricity privatization."

Analysts were unanimous that the issue would be a success. Mr David Blackwood of Hoare Govett, the broker, said: "This morning, we would have said 130p, and we're surprised it's lower." Mr Peter Green of Henry

Comment 27

Cooke, Lumsden, the private client broker, said he did not expect to see many of the public who were not clients of his coming in as happened with TSB and British Gas.

Mr Andy Green of Nomura Securities, said that the Japanese would go for it whether it was 125p or 135p as steel is a

favoured sector in Japan. The Americans are expected also to find it attractive.

The minimum investment will be 400 shares at a cost of £500. The subscription will be in two instalments, the first of 60p a share on application, and the second of 65p on September 26, 1989. At the minimum subscription, the first payment will be £240, and the second £260.

At the offer price, BS will be on a price/earnings ratio of 4.9, and a gross dividend yield of 8 per cent. The gross yield on the first instalment is 16 per cent at an annualized rate.

More than 1.5 million private investors have registered their interest in the flotation with the British Steel Share Information Office. Lord

Young said: "I have set the price to ensure a good sale and a healthy after market. The price is fair both to potential investors and to the taxpayer."

Of the 2 billion shares on offer, 23 per cent have been allocated to the general public and employees and pensioners of British Steel. However, if this is oversubscribed, the allocation will be increased in stages up to a maximum of 42 per cent, reducing the overseas offer from 33 per cent to 25 per cent, and the British institutional offer from 44 per cent to 33 per cent.

The prospectus and share application forms will be published on November 25, and the offer closes on Friday, December 2 at 10.00 am.

French to pay £70m for water companies

Saur, the third largest French water group, has made simultaneous agreed bids for three water companies in the South of England for almost £70 million, on the eve of publication of the Government's water privatization Bill.

The bids include a record £50 million for Mid Southern Water, the second highest profit earner among the 28 statutory water companies with pre-tax profits of £4.2 million. Saur also bid £13 million for Mid Sussex Water and £5.3 million for the adjoining West Kent Water.

Each board has pledged irrevocable acceptance which could lead to takeover battles with other big shareholders.

Générale des Eaux already owns 15 per cent of Mid Southern, but was helped in its earlier bids for two other companies by being sold Saur's stakes.

At Mid Sussex and West Kent, which have management links, Saur faces opposition from an alliance between the Southern Water Authority and Mr Duncan Saville, the Australian financier, through Associated Insurance Pension Fund. Between them, they own 32 per cent of Mid Sussex and 45 per cent of West Kent. Saur owns 16 per cent of West Kent and 5 per cent of Mid Sussex and Mr John Stansby of Saur admitted: "We might have a battle on our hands."

Southern Water, which wants West Kent and Mid Sussex to stay independently quoted, urged other shareholders to take no action. It is to consider its position when formal offers are sent to shareholders. Saur, owned by the Bouygues construction group, also owns large stakes in Rickmansworth Water.

New setback for GrandMet

The High Court has scuppered Grand Metropolitan's attempt to overturn a Takeover Panel ruling that would give Pernod Ricard victory in the battle for Irish Distillers Group, by refusing its request to bring forward the court's judicial review of the Panel ruling. The court said any interference was intended to be historic and not affect the outcome during a bid battle.

Dutch launch Hammerson bid



Rodamco on bid trail: Chairman Cornelis van Rijn flanked by directors Karel Avan (left) and Paul van Romunde yesterday

By Our City Staff

The stage is set for another international takeover battle after the Dutch group Rodamco launched a £1.3 billion cash offer for Britain's third largest property company, Hammerson Property Investment and Development Corporation.

Hammerson, which includes the successful Brent Cross Shopping Centre in North London among its prime assets, said the bid was

"unwelcome, derisory and wholly unacceptable" and would be "firmly resisted."

Rodamco is offering 818p cash for each high yielding Hammerson ordinary share and 780p in cash for each A share. Hammerson shares soared above the bid levels, with the ordinary shares closing up 156p at 855p and the A 179p higher at 854p.

The move prompted speculation that Standard Life, which has 20 per cent of

Hammerson's capital and has been buying shares this month, might launch a friendly white knight bid.

The Dutch company has been looking at Hammerson for about a year, and has prepared an estimate of the value of its portfolio.

Mr Cornelis van Rijn, managing director of Rodamco, said the exercise produced a figure of £1.3 billion, which is reflected in the bid terms. The decision to bid was

made on Monday and communicated to Mr Sydney Mason, chairman of Hammerson, yesterday. No attempt was made to negotiate terms in advance.

"They got me out of the shower at 8.15 this morning to tell me that when I arrived in the office there would be a bid," said Mr Mason. "I asked them how much and told them when they offered twice that I would talk to them."

Comment, page 27

Telephone Rentals rejects increased offer from C&W

By Martin Waller

An increased 340p-a-share offer from Cable and Wireless for Telephone Rentals, the business telephone systems supplier, was immediately rejected by its quarry.

The new bid, which values TR at £319.8 million, was at a slightly lower level than some in the City had been expecting. But it does attempt to counter criticism that TR shareholders would be losing out on the company's prospective revival with a convertible loan stock alternative.

Shareholders can also elect to receive loan notes or any combination of the three alter-

natives. The latest offer is final unless another bidder enters the fray.

TR's share price, which has been sitting well ahead of the value of the initial offer, jumped 6p to 338p before settling back at 334p.

Mr Gus Moore, the company's managing director, dismissed this discount to the offer price as an "initial reaction. Our general view is that the offer is too little and far too late."

Market sources have suggested TR might be saved by a white knight, but Mr Moore said he had been in no such

talks. "We're wholly convinced of our need to remain independent."

Mr Gordon Owen, managing director of C&W, which owns the Mercury Communications telephone business, hit out at TR's "dull record," saying that the calendar 1988 pre-tax profit forecast was a disappointment. TR has forecast an 18 per cent rise to £23.5 million.

The convertible loan stock will earn 7 per cent annually and converts in C&W ordinaries at 412p nominal, against a price in the market yesterday of 365p, up 3p.

Economy could beat Lawson's 4 1/2% forecast

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

The economy continued to grow rapidly in the third quarter, suggesting that growth for the year will be at least as high as the 4 1/2 per cent forecast in the autumn statement of the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson.

The first estimate of gross domestic product shows a rise of 1.3 per cent on the output-based measure compared with the previous quarter. This was a little more than City economists were expecting and compares with a downwards revised increase of 1.1 per cent in the second quarter.

Annual growth has slowed from 5.7 per cent in the second quarter and 6.3 per cent in the first to 5 per cent. But that is still likely to leave Britain among the fastest growing of the world's leading economies in 1988.

Analysts said the figures confirmed the need for some slow-down in the pace of growth.

But Mr Michael Hughes of Barclays de Zoete Wodds said:

"These figures help to confirm that productive potential may now be somewhere between 4 per cent and 5 per cent rather than between 3 per cent and 4 per cent."

The Central Statistical Office's index for the third

Trade gap prediction 28

quarter was 114.3 (1985=100) seasonally adjusted. The alternative measures of GDP based on income and expenditure show markedly slower rates of growth, but the output-based estimate is regarded as the most reliable over the shorter term.

The Government's forecast of the average measure of GDP taking one year against another.

Output of the production industries rose 1 per cent in the third quarter with a loss of energy output due to the Piper Alpha disaster. Output of services rose 1.4 per cent

CBI hits at 'dated takeover policy'

By Colin Narborough

Mr John Banham, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, yesterday accused the Government of being "at least 15 years out of date" on the realities of defending British companies against foreign takeovers.

He was responding to a speech by Mr Francis Maude, the Corporate Affairs Minister, on Monday, rejecting a call by the CBI for slower and more transparent takeover rules to make hostile bids by foreigners more difficult.

Mr Maude reaffirmed the government line that threat of a takeover was the "sharpest possible incentive" to keep a company competitive.

Mr Banham said after a meeting of the CBI ruling council that the argument that only poorly managed companies were vulnerable to takeover was no longer valid.

It was the well-managed British companies which were being taken over by foreign companies seeking to expand in preparation for the single European market, he said.

"The risk now is that the cost of success is being taken over."

Proposals for slowing down the City takeover rules and making more information available to shareholders were made at the CBI conference by Mr Banham a fortnight ago.

The CBI council yesterday endorsed the six-point plan, sending it to its companies

committee for urgent evaluation. The council hopes to be able to put formal proposals to the Bank of England and Takeover Panel next year.

The proposals include cutting the threshold at which a full bid must be made to 15 per cent from the present 30 per cent.

Mr Banham said: "We need to address the future problems that seem certain to follow from the open and depressed state of the London securities market and the fears in North America and the Pacific basin of a Fortress Europe, fuelled by prospects of a single Europe market in 1992."

But he underlined that British industry had to avoid painting itself into a protectionist corner, especially as British firms were major investors in abroad.

He said he wanted the takeover process slowed and made more open, while avoiding measures that made the London securities market less open than Wall Street.

He applauded the announcement in the Queen's Speech that a new Companies Bill, which will include provisions designed to speed up merger vetting, will be put before Parliament.

Speeding up the vetting process was entirely compatible with making changes in the City takeover rules, along the lines he had proposed, he said.

THE WORLD IN 1989

and onto the 1990s

WORLD POLITICS WINDING DOWN after the US election
SUNNY SIDE UP for world growth, also for Britain (if your nerves are good)
THREE BAD YEARS FOR BANKERS but the rest isn't a-booming
CREDIBILITY PROBLEMS for Mrs T.
Comrade G and the hedonists in Tokyo
FAMILY LIFE TURNS TOPSY-TURVY; morals and money

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The Economist PUBLICATIONS

Calor raises half-year figures to £11.6m

Thinking ahead

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Sluggish securities send Warburg interim sliding

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

SG Warburg Group, the securities conglomerate, yesterday announced a sharp deterioration in its interim pre-tax profits compared with last year, as sluggish securities markets continued to drag down performance.

Interim profits fell from £76.8 million in 1987 to £47.8 million for the six months to September 30.

But Warburg pointed out that the result was more readily comparable with the second half of last year which included the effects of the stock market crash and an £8 million loss on underwriting the BP share issue. On this comparison the interim results were up by £13.5 million at the pre-tax level.

The continuing low level of profits is typical of the merchant bank sector at present, and caused no surprise in the stock market, where Warburg's shares rose 2p to 314p.

Investors were also unwilling to commit themselves to overseas markets.

The company said that on the primary debt side it was switching away from low-margin business such as multiple option credit facilities to more sophisticated financial packages designed for individual clients.

The move towards the higher-margin business had

meant a significant reduction in lending, leading to a sharp increase in the group's liquidity. Short-term funds nearly doubled from £1.2 billion to £1.2 billion.

The group emphasized, however, that corporate finance business had continued strongly, producing substantial profits. Merger and acquisition business had been at a very high level and seemed likely to continue that way during the second half of the year.

Mercury Asset Management, the fund management operation, also produced higher profits than in the preceding six months, up £4 million to

£19.2 million after an increase in the number of clients and the size of funds under management.

Mr David Scholey, the chairman, said that the results showed the benefits of Warburg's diversified businesses.

Warburg is increasing the interim dividend by 5.7 per cent, from 3.5p to 3.7p.

The group also announced a link-up with Alfred Bunting & Co, the Canadian investment dealer. The two companies are combining their Canadian broking and corporate finance operations in a firm which is 50 per cent owned by each partner and will be called Bunting Warburg Inc.

Broad St recovers with £1m profit

Broad Street Group, which fell from grace last year after haphazard book-keeping was revealed, has recovered with first-half pre-tax profits of £1 million, four times up on last year.

Earnings per share are three times higher at 1.9p and there is a first ever interim dividend of 0.6p.

Mr James Gulliver, who was brought in as chairman by Mr Brian Basham, the founder, to impose stricter financial controls, said: "I am confident we will maintain our improvement into the second half." Analysts have forecast £2.3 million for the full year.

Abbey National contributes 38 per cent of overall profits against 70 per cent in 1986. In the stock market the shares rose 2p to 37p.

Award appeal

RHM Outhwaite, the Lloyd's underwriting agency, is to appeal against an arbitration award which declared that Outhwaite Syndicate 661 was not entitled to avoid a disputed reinsurance contract. RHM says it is not obliged to honour the contract because it was given inadequate information about the risks involved when it took on the reinsurance in the early 1980s.

Trust meeting

Financial Trust, a Swiss shareholder which owns more than 10 per cent of Bestwood, requisitioned an extraordinary meeting yesterday to propose the re-election of Mr Tony Cole, who resigned as chairman in July, and the removal from the board of Mr Anthony Holmes, the man who replaced him.

Stake raised

The Galerias Preciados Consortium has raised its stake in Mounleigh Group, the property company, to 21.51 per cent from 13.37 per cent. It has bought 13.8 million ordinary shares in Mounleigh at 200p each and now holds 46.98 million shares.

Anglo Irish Bank

Anglo Irish Bank reported an increase of 57 per cent to £2.2 million in pre-tax profits for the year to September 30. A report in *The Times* yesterday attributed the figures to Allied Irish Bank.

BICC in Italy

BICC, the cables-to-construction group, has agreed to pay 16.25 billion (£2.7 million) for Demo Armadi Rack, an Italian electronic packaging company.

COMMENT David Brewerton

Rodamco opens up the Hammerson bidding

Cornelis van Rijn is learning how to play the takeover game, and among the tricks he has mastered is that you do not open the bidding with your final offer. When his Rodamco bid for Haslemere Estates two years ago, he started the bidding at 600p and won at 640p, a relatively easy victory which owed a good deal to the accommodating preference of the market at that time for cash over property shares.

He has also learned the trick which any of the old property developers could have told him: properties can be bought cheaply wholesale but command fancy prices when sold individually. The shedding of about 100 Haslemere properties has produced sale figures well ahead of the values.

But he does not appear to have learned very much about timing, for his attack on Hammerson's management comes after the group has just appointed a managing director.

The attack on Hammerson is concentrated on management, specifically that the group "has not been managed to its full potential" in recent years. That charge has to be laid at the door of Hammerson chairman Sydney Mason, and is reflected in the underperformance shown by both classes of share.

As we pointed out in this column in April, when discussing Hammerson's vulnerability to takeover, this is due not to poor property management, where Mr Mason has the benefit of 40 years hands-on experience, but to neglect of the liabilities side of the balance sheet.

where the group has regarded currency exposure as a legitimate risk for shareholders to carry.

So while Mr Mason might (and it is a big "might") acknowledge some failing on the management of the group, action has already been taken to correct it in that John Parry was appointed sole managing director last month. Already, there is a change of style, and each of Hammerson's assets, no matter how cherished as pieces of real estate, is up for critical review. It is, for example, too heavy in Australia and too widely spread in North America.

Rodamco has done extensive homework and claims to have visited every substantial property, assessing its value and potential. Whether Parry's men bumped into Mr van Rijn's men on the same piece of pavement is not recorded (although Hammerson has been watching for stake-builders), but it is likely they came to the same conclusions. Given a severe pruning, Hammerson could be made much more valuable than it currently appears.

The big question is whether Mr Parry will be allowed to do the job, or whether Rodamco will do it. And crucial in shareholders' attitude is whether Mr Mason allows his managing director the freedom of action his title implies. The danger for Hammerson is that a substantial number of shareholders will be tempted to sell in the market: its comfort is that nearly 30 per cent of the voting capital is held either by its life long supporter Standard Life or by family interests.

Pulling in the punters

Lord Young of Graffham is anxious to rub out all memories of the British Petroleum share issue just a year ago, when the stock market crash intervened to ensure that everybody who applied for shares — and there were a surprisingly large number — made an immediate loss on them.

British Steel will be like the old style privatizations of British Gas and the rest: an opportunity for the punters to make a bit of pin money before the stock finds its inevitable way into the long term institutional coffers. Unusually, if not uniquely, the advisers to the Steel issue were actually urging the Government to opt for a higher price than the 125p at which the offer for sale has been struck. It is normal for the advisers to err on the side of caution but to be talked up by the Government, anxious to fill its coffers with every last penny.

Lord Young, however, is taking no chances with Steel, because within the next couple of years he will have the more difficult task of selling water and electricity to the Nation of Shareholders.

That said, the price could not have been set very much higher. Initial expectations were pitched at the 140p

mark, sliding to 135p when the stock market failed to revive after its summer recess and to 130p this week. At 130p, the offer would have been underwritten in comfort: at 125p it was underwritten with enthusiasm, although there is unlikely to be much stock left with the underwriters.

A heavy domestic demand may leave the overseas investors short of their targets, and it is known that the Japanese in particular are anxious to accumulate significant shareholdings for strategic rather than merely portfolio reasons. One of the dangers of pitching the price on the low side, ironically, is that the offer will become attractive to stags, and that will lead to instability in the share register.

But everyone is anxious to see a healthy aftermarket, and with no false incentives for investors to stay put, the shares will stand or fall on their fundamental attractions: yield and price earnings ratio. Both are attractive, but then the market is full of attractive stocks that nobody seems to want unless they attract a bid. That said, investors with £500 to spare over two years should keep their pens handy to subscribe.

Magnet slips as profits disappoint

By Martin Waller

Shares in Magnet, the kitchen and bedroom furniture manufacturer and retailer, slipped 11p to 206p yesterday as the company reported interim figures below the market's best forecasts.

Pre-tax profits were £33.72 million, against best estimates of £36 million and £25.04 million made a year previously.

The interim dividend is raised to 2.9p from 2.5p.

The half year saw the disposal of the timber operation, Southern-Edwards, for a better-than-expected £85.8 million. This is taken as a below-the-line extraordinary credit of £26.13 million.

The timber side contributed £1.9 million in the three months it was still owned, said Mr Tom Duxbury, the Magnet chairman. This was largely balanced by the interest received on the proceeds.

Sales from continuing operations grew by almost 18 per cent to £173 million. The high street accounted for about 70 per cent of this.

The timber disposal proceeds would eventually go towards the continuing store opening programme, said the chairman. Capital spending was running at about £50 million a year, between £10 million and £15 million of this going on the group's factories and the balance on new branch openings.

First-half profits were swollen by £3.8 million by property disposals.

Tempos, page 26

Dollar hits Courtaulds

DENZIL MONEILLANCE



Anyone for tennis? Sir Christopher shows the company's handiwork, reinforcement for Steffi Graf's grand slam racket, 'ready for whatever the world can throw at Courtaulds'

The weak dollar and problems in the acrylic fibres market have temporarily stopped the long recovery of Courtaulds, the textiles, paints and chemicals group.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to end-September dropped from £102 million to £98 million on sales up 10 per cent to £1.27 billion. Overseas profits would have been £7 million higher but for the dollar's fall.

Sir Christopher Hogg, the

chairman, would make no forecast for the full year. "We cannot predict conditions any more than anyone else can," he said.

But the chairman stressed: "Courtaulds is now far more robust and able to withstand things beyond our control. We have pretty healthy, robust and competitive businesses and our managers are up to whatever the world can throw at them."

The interim dividend has been raised from 2.75p to 2.9p.

Textile profits slipped from £28 million to £21 million at the operating level and fibres from £24 million to £13 million.

But much of this setback was made up by an £8 million rise in profits from coatings to £22 million and an £11 million rise in woodpulp profits to £25 million. Acquisitions contributed £10 million to operating profit but also to a £5 million rise in net interest charges to £11.4 million.

Tempos, page 26

Offer triggers fight for Cundell

By Cliff Feltham

A takeover battle broke out yesterday for Cundell, the packaging group based in Chelmsford, which had planned a get-together with Ferry Pickering.

Crown Industrial, a privately-controlled packaging business, launched an unexpected bid worth 160p a share for Cundell, valuing it at £28.8 million, or about £3 million more than the value of the Pickering offer.

Abbey Life, which owns 24.4 per cent of Cundell, has

said it will accept the Crown offer.

Mr Brian Fix, the Cundell chairman, said the new terms were inadequate and called on shareholders to support the original merger plan with Ferry Pickering.

He said: "Crown are involved in the unsophisticated end of the packaging market and being taken over by them will set us back 10 years."

"We intend to fight the bid because we think the company's prospects are much

brighter by a get-together with Ferry Pickering — even if they are offering less money."

He said he understood Pickering was disappointed at the late bid by Crown but he had no idea whether it would be prepared to raise its offer.

Mr Derek Jacobs, the deputy chairman of Crown, said: "We have been looking at Cundell for some time and think we know the business very well. The acquisition will create a new force in the UK packaging industry." Crown,

set up last year by the merger of seven paper and packaging companies, is controlled by important institutions led by Close Investment Management.

They are putting up £22 million towards the cost of the bid with the balance being funded from bank facilities.

Last year Crown made pre-tax profits of £854,000 on sales of £15.5 million.

On the stock market Cundell shares jumped 24p to 163p.

Curious Clowes connection

Buckley's Brewery, which Guinness recently announced it was taking over for £25 million, has a further curious connection with Barlow Clowes, the crashed investment group, and 15 cases of Beaujolais Nouveau. Buckley's, it will be remembered, was taken over by Peter Clowes, and his former business associate Guy von Cramer, who paid £29.2 million in October last year for the tiny Welsh brewery. It is their 53 per cent stake in Buckley's — financed by the Barlow Clowes investors' money — which Guinness has purchased although Mr von Cramer denies that he knew the financing came from Barlow Clowes investors. Shortly after their takeover, von Cramer allowed the Principality Wine Company, a company subsidiary, to hire a private Lear jet from Northern Executive Aviation, for the November Beaujolais Nouveau run. The plane cost £6,720 to hire and the bill was picked up by an Isle of Man company, Corporate Aviation. With the 15 cases of Beaujolais collected at Dinard in France aboard, it touched down at Cardiff airport 36 minutes and 21 seconds later. And what this led to? Yes, you have it. A mention in this year's Guinness Book of Records as the fastest-ever Beaujolais Nouveau run as the wine was in British airspace 13 minutes after take-off. So this is why Guinness has gone for Buckley's.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

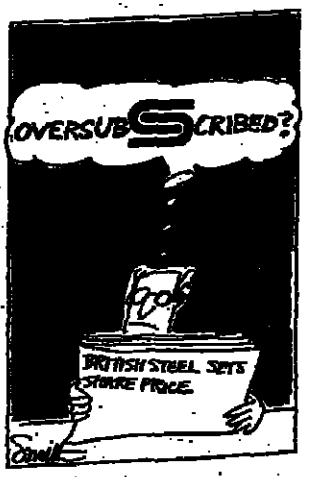
Ultimate 99% discount

Chief executives — and accountancy wizards in the City — will no doubt be wondering how he did it. And most importantly whether they could get away with a deal like George Schultz's. The US Secretary of State's personal travel cost the Federal Government almost \$1.9 million (£1.04 million) for a 30-month period ending in July. A Congressional panel reports that Schultz took 23 personal trips, most often to his home in

California or for a holiday. He travelled on military aircraft and his party included security personnel, says the State Department's general accounting office. The total spent for all these trips was \$1,892,214. Schultz has reimbursed the US government part of that, leaving his repayment rate on the economy air fare rate to "a destination plus \$1. The total amount of Schultz's reimbursement for the 23 trips was — wait for it — \$18,783.

Xmas lifts

The season's greetings in top stores in the US are "Tighter Security." A survey of 47,000 stores by accountant Arthur Young says that theft last year rose by 5 per cent and shows



BMG's bee buzzes off

The Blechley Motor Group, which is announcing its USM flotation tomorrow, has had a small setback over its choice of company logo. Leading shareholder and chairman, David Dunn, of the Rover, Ford and Vauxhall dealership, is a keen amateur pilot and decided to use a bumble bee emblem in his prospectus. The point of this was that because this particular bee is theoretically unable to fly it has to work hard to get off the ground. Its performance is thus in contrast with the worker bee, more traditionally used by companies to denote their zealous tendencies. However, the literal-minded chaps at adviser Kleinwort Benson, stepped in and reminded Dunn, whose group will be capitalized at about £8 million, that every item in a prospectus has to be "verifiable." This means that the use of the poorly-designed bumble bee in Blechley's literature is sufficiently unconventional to be a risk and so it has gone. Spoilsports.

City figures will be congregating today for the memorial service at noon for Jack Durlacher at St Lawrence Jewry, in Guildhall. Michael Richardson, of Rothschilds, is giving the address for the dozen of stockjobbers, who died aged 75 in September, and his sons, Nick and Bill Durlacher, who both now work for BZW, will be reading the lessons.

Rosemary Unsworth

Betacom

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McCaughan Dyson Capel Cure (UK) Limited 65 Holborn Viaduct London EC1A 2EU	Betacom Plc Unit 12 Ponders End Industrial Estate Duck Lane Enfield, Middlesex EN3 7TO	Cannon Street Investments P.L.C. 18 Buxtonham Gate London SW1E 6LB	Bank of Scotland 55 Old Broad Street London EC2P 2HL and 110 St Vincent Street Glasgow G2 5EJ
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23rd November, 1988

Betacom

NFC float could give some staff £250,000

By Our City Staff

Hundreds of employee-shareholders of the privatized National Freight Consortium could become "quarter millionaires" early in the New Year when the company is floated on the Stock Exchange.

Mrs Muriel Craddock, director of communications at NFC, said it was possible that warehousemen and secretaries could be among the biggest winners from the flotation if they cashed in their holdings.

NFC of Bedford, a distribution, storage and travel group best known for its Pickfords and BRS lorry fleets, was sold to the employees and banks for £53 million in 1982 and promptly returned to profit.

The shares are now worth 70 times the £1 a share offered to staff and the average shareholder invested £700 at the outset which makes their holding worth more than £50,000 today.

About 42,000 employees, their relations, ex-employees and pensioners own more than 80 per cent of NFC. At present they can only buy and sell their shares on four days a year on an internal market — and on every sale day except one there have been more buyers than sellers. The flotation was overwhelmingly approved at a shareholders' meeting in February.

The board has negotiated a deal with the Stock Exchange to preserve the worker-shareholders' double voting strength, which should fend off any takeover predators.

Brokers join attack on draft legislation for Colony's regulatory watchdog

HK to rewrite Securities Bill

From Stephen Leather, Hong Kong

The Bill to set up Hong Kong's new regulatory watchdog, the Securities and Futures Commission, is being rewritten following a wave of criticism from the Crown Colony's financial community.

The Hong Kong Stockbrokers Association yesterday joined in the criticism of the proposed powers of the new watchdog, saying that they "seemed something out of one's wildest imagination and some were even in conflict with the spirit of the existing Companies Ordinance, human rights code and legal practices."

The association, which represents the Crown Colony's 750 stockbrokers, said: "Some of these unreasonable and extensive powers would not be required for any regulatory body, either within or outside the government, to carry out its duties."

A draft Bill to give the commission the powers it will need to clamp down on irregularities in the financial sector is currently being studied by the Crown Colony's exchanges and professional bodies before

being put before the law-making Legislative Council.

The Bill was supposed to be ready by this month, but it will now be delayed until early next year while it is revamped by Mr Robert Owen, the former Lloyds merchant banker, recruited by the Hong Kong government to set up and run the new watchdog body. He will be assisted by Mr Geoffrey Lewis, the newly-appointed legal adviser from Herbert Smith, the London lawyer.

Mr Lewis, who was one of the team brought in by the government to put together the HK\$4 billion (£279.1 million) rescue package for the futures exchange in the wake of last year's market crash, has been seconded to Hong Kong for one year to help set up the new commission.

Originally Mr Owen said he wanted hard-hitting powers that go way beyond what Hong Kong is used to. He wanted his investigators to be able to enter business premises without a search warrant, to use statements from people being questioned as



Critics' target: Robert Owen, author of the delayed draft Bill

evidence against them and to take away their right to silence.

All three proposals have drawn fierce criticism from members of the financial community, who claim that

the powers would make the SFC even more powerful than the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

The stock exchange and the futures exchanges have already presented a list of criti-

cisms to Mr Owen and the Bar Association has produced a list of 19 changes it wants before it becomes law.

The Stockbrokers' Association confirmed it had sent a 28-page report of its criticisms to Mr Owen.

The association says it wants the new watchdog to be answerable to the Financial Secretary and that it be "closely monitored" by either the Legislative Council or the Executive Council, the Colony's equivalent of the Cabinet.

The association also wants a right of appeal to an independent appeals tribunal with minor appeals being directed to a review board with members appointed by the Financial Secretary.

Under the association's proposals, the review board would ensure that the Financial Secretary kept a tight grip on the new watchdog.

The association feels that this "modified" structure should provide the minimum checks and balances" in line with the spirit of the existing Companies Ordinance, human rights code and judicial system.

CSR and Redland in Aus\$600m joint venture

From Richard Battley, Sydney

CSR, the building products group plagued by an Aus\$50 million asbestos compensation liability, yesterday announced an Aus\$600 million (£283.4 million) joint venture with Redland.

CSR is buying BTR Nylex's bricks and pipe business for

Aus\$280 million. This will be merged with Monier Redland, a subsidiary of Redland, which controls half of Australia's roofing market and operates in New Zealand.

Mr Brian Padman, Monier Redland's managing director, said the joint venture was a significant opportunity for Redland to expand in Australia. Mr Ian Burgess, CSR's

managing director, said the new unit — 51 per cent CSR/49 per cent Redland — was part of its Aus\$1.5 billion expansion programme.

The partnership will challenge Boral for supremacy in Australian brick manufacturing.

Mr Burgess said CSR, which last year chose to return to its core businesses of building

materials and sugar production, could fund its acquisitions without high gearing.

CSR yesterday unveiled an operating profit of Aus\$271 million for the half-year to end-September. This is 54 per cent higher than the result for the previous six months.

A tax-free interim dividend of 14 cents was declared, compared with 10 cents for

the corresponding period last year. Earnings per share rose 10 cents to 22 cents.

Mr Burgess said CSR's Aus\$50 million liability to former employees arising from the operation of an asbestos mine and mill at Wittenoom in Western Australia by a subsidiary had been provided for as an extraordinary item.

NIESR expects trade gap to reach £15.2bn

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

The National Institute of Economic and Social Research — traditionally a critic of the present Government's policies — expects Britain's balance of payments to worsen next year rather than improve as predicted in the Chancellor's autumn statement.

The deficit is forecast to reach £15.2 billion from just more than £13 billion this year.

The institute is also more pessimistic about growth and inflation, predicting 2.6 per cent growth against the Treasury's 3 per cent forecast and inflation of 5.3 per cent in the final quarter of next year rather than 5 per cent.

It sees a need for high-interest rates for the foreseeable future and no scope for cutting taxes in the Budget.

The combination will help to slow the economy and reduce inflation, but at the cost of a halt to the fall in unemployment.

The effect on the balance of payments will not be felt until future years when the deficit will begin to fall very gradually.

Unlike the Treasury, the institute thinks that consumers may save an even smaller proportion of their income next year.

But the NIESR is relatively optimistic about pay settlements which it believes will start to slow next year in response to lower inflation.

The Government's re-

action, according to the NIESR, should be to raise taxes rather than interest rates and to begin selling gilt-edged stock again.

Using fiscal policy as well as monetary policy to rein back the economy would help to encourage the "long period of high investment" the institute thinks is necessary to rebuild capacity.

Returning to a policy of "over-funding" the borrowing requirement would offer for-

The real exchange rate of the dollar will most probably continue to decline to 1990 and possibly beyond, Mr Eric Kruger, US Conference Board economist, forecast. He expected the Federal Reserve to tighten monetary policy only slightly in the first quarter of next year by 50 basis points. Inflation, expected to average 4 per cent this year, would rise to 5 per cent in 1989 and 5.5 per cent in 1990, but he did not expect a US recession in the next two years.

Without it there will need to be either a sharp fall in output or in the exchange rate to bring the current account quickly back towards balance, the institute says.

That would ease the task of attracting the sustained capital inflow necessary to give time for a gradual adjustment in the current account.

Without it there will need to be either a sharp fall in output or in the exchange rate to bring the current account quickly back towards balance, the institute says.

FINANCIAL NEWS FROM B.A.T INDUSTRIES

£1,089 MILLION PRE-TAX PROFIT IN NINE MONTHS

NINE MONTHS RESULTS			
£1 = \$1.69 at 30.9.88 (\$1.88 at 31.12.87)		9 months to September 1988	9 months to September 1987
PRE-TAX PROFIT	£1,089m	£961m	+13%
EARNINGS PER SHARE	42.31p	38.43p	+10%
Currency fluctuations had little net impact — at constant exchange rates turnover rose 4 per cent and operating profit was up 12 per cent to £1,108 million • Financial services — further substantial progress — profit of £333 million, an increase of £64 million — Eagle Star's underwriting performance showed significant improvement of £45 million — also excellent results from Allied Dunbar and Canada Trustco • Tobacco profits up 13 per cent at £586 million — Brown & Williamson and BATCo particular success in export markets • Paper and pulp profit up 3 per cent despite disposal of a number of businesses • Retail profit at £40 million — strong store for store growth in Argos — competitive pressures continued to affect US retailing results • Farmers acquisition on schedule.			

B.A.T INDUSTRIES

FINANCIAL SERVICES • RETAILING • PAPER • TOBACCO

The full quarterly report is being posted to shareholders and copies are available from the Company Secretary, B.A.T Industries p.l.c., Windsor House, 50 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0NL.

ALPHA STOCKS			
Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
ADT 125	CU 1,548	Laporte 289	Seatchi 532
Abbey 9,292	Cons Gold 56	LAG 893	Sainsbury 2,457
Alm-Lyons 1,315	Coats 1,723	Lloyds 2,859	Scot & N 278
Ames 758	Courtauld 2,578	Lorbro 3,010	Seas 8,851
ASDA 1,425	Delagay 350	Lucas 316	Sedgwick 355
AB Foods 343	Dixons 10,436	Magnet 2,384	Shell 1,028
Argyll 1,918	EOG 287	M&S 4,705	Shibui 814
BAA 2,753	Entenry 743	Maxwell Co 743	Stough 1,231
BET 1,848	Ferranti 1,858	MS Group 2,179	Smith & N 2,714
BTR 4,845	Flora 181	MEPC 4,583	Smith WH 197
BAT 2,027	FRO Back 2,085	Midland 1,477	Smiths Ind 408
Barclays 1,253	Gateway Co 1,507	NatWest 815	STC 2,175
Bass 279	Gen Acc 441	Nest 2,804	Stan Chart 256
Batham 2,827	GEO 3,234	Nip Food 300	Sovereign 26,748
Benson 826	Geno 1,482	Sun 2,978	Sun Africa 185
Berkley SW 303	Globe Inv 772	Pearl 627	T & N 500
BICC 547	Glynwed 485	Pearson 505	Tarmac 1,681
Blue Arrow 7,810	Granada 711	Pillington 2,202	Tate & Lyle 110
Blue Circle 447	Grand Mat 1,897	Plessey 7,420	Taylor Wd 1,315
BOC 1,432	GLS 'A' 326	Polly Peck 1,032	TSB 1,998
Bores 3,570	Grice 1,807	Prudential 1,147	Tesco 1,512
BPS 3,964	GUN 412	Racal 2,202	Thorn EM 702
Br Aero 2,918	Guinness 3,083	Racal Tele n/a	Trafalgar 3,877
Br Airways 1,424	Hanson 'A' 2,755	Rk Hovis 588	THF 1,254
Br Comm 1,811	Henson 11,628	RSC 382	Unistar 2,682
Br Gas 5,085	H & C 323	RAC 375	Unigate 558
Br Land 8,211	Hawker 1,084	Redland 1,058	Unilever 835
Br Retail 1,594	Read 927	United B 1,551	Unilever 835
Br Telecom 5,330	SAI 965	Routlers 471	Unilever 835
Bund 3,775	ICI 775	RMC Gp 486	Unilever 835
Burnham 451	Inchcape 1,090	RITZ 805	Unilever 835
Burton 3,247	Inguitt 1,649	R-Hoyce 497	Unilever 835
CAW 1,885	Lasmo 2,040	Rothman 'B' 1,174	Unilever 835
Cadbury 3,948	Ladbroke 2,587	Royal Bank 443	Unilever 835
Corn 3,367	Lloyds 3,327	Royal Ind 718	Unilever 835

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Lancashire WN8 8LP Tel: 0695 50200 Fax: 0695 50112

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COMPANY _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

THE WEST LANCs PROJECT

● Ex dividend. ● Cum dividend. ● Cum stock split. ● Ex stock split. ● Cum all (any two or more of above). ● Ex all (any two or more of above). Listing or vacation days: (1) Monday. (2) Tuesday. (3) Wednesday. (4) Thursday. (5) Friday.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

[illegible]

Ireland	1.5520-1.5585	Denmark	6.6370-6.6420	Italy	1275.0-1276.0
Singapore	1.9420-1.9430	W Germany	1.7170-1.7177	Belgium (Com)	35.00-36.03
Malaysia	s/s	Switzerland	1.4425-1.4430	Hong Kong	7.0100-7.0110
Australia	1.1534-1.1547	Netherlands	1.9370-1.9380	Portugal	143.00-143.59
Canada	1.1950-1.2000	France	5.8700-5.8750	Spain	112.80-112.87
Sweden	6.9070-6.9125	Japan	121.10-121.40	Austria	12.00-12.07
Norway	6.6450-6.6500				

Rates supplied by Reuters Bank MOEX and Ecu

MONEY MARKETS		EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %	
Spain Rates % Clearing Series 12 Finance Has 12%		Current	5 mth
Discount Market 10%		Dollar:	6 1/8-6 3/4 5 1/8-5 3/4 5 1/8-5 3/4
Overnight High 12% Low 11% Week High: 11%		Mark:	5 1/8-5 3/4 5 1/8-5 3/4 5 1/8-5 3/4
Buying 2 mth - 1 1/2% 3 mth - 1 1/2% 11% bid		Deutschmark:	4 1/4-4 5/8 4 1/4-4 5/8 4 1/4-4 5/8
Selling 2 mth - 1 1/2% 3 mth - 1 1/2% 11% bid		Call: 4 3/4-5 1/8	
Prime Bank Bills (Discount %): 4 mth 1 1/2% 11% bid		French Franc:	5 1/8-5 3/4 5 1/8-5 3/4 5 1/8-5 3/4
6 mth 1 1/2% 11% 3 mth 1 1/2% 6 mth 1 1/2% 11% bid		Call: 7 1/8-8 1/4	
Trade Bills (Discount %): 1 mth 1 1/2% 11% bid		Yen:	4 1/4-4 5/8 4 1/4-4 5/8 4 1/4-4 5/8
2 mth 1 1/2% 3 mth 1 1/2% 6 mth 1 1/2%		Call: 4-3	
1 mth 1 1/2% 11% 3 mth 1 1/2% 6 mth 1 1/2% 11% bid		Yen:	4 1/4-4 5/8 4 1/4-4 5/8 4 1/4-4 5/8
1 week 12-11% 1 mth 12-11% 3 mth 12-12%		Call: 4-3	
6 mth 12-11% 11% 12-11% 11% 12-11% 11%		Yen:	4 1/4-4 5/8 4 1/4-4 5/8 4 1/4-4 5/8

6 mth: 12%+12% 9 mth: 12%+12% 12 mth: 12%+12%
Local Authority Deposits (%)
1 day: 0% 7 day: 1 mth: _____
3 mth: 6 mth: 12 mth: _____
Local Authority Bonds (%)
1 mth: 12%+12 3 mth: 12%+12 6 mth: 12%+12
9 mth: 12%+12 12 mth: 12%+12 12 mth: 12%+12
Sterling CDs (%) 1 mth: 11%+11%
3 mth: 12%+12 6 mth: 12%+12 12 mth: 11%+11%
12 mth: 12%+12

BULLION:
Open: \$418.00-418.50 Close: \$419.00-419.50
High: \$419.50-420.00 Low: \$417.25-417.75

COINS:
Per coin (Ex VAT)
10p coins: \$281.00-282.00 20p coins: \$281.00-282.00

9.15-9.20 12 mth 9.25-9.20
ECN

Dollar Cds: 1 mth: 0.85-0.90
 3 mths: 9.15-9.10 6 mths: 9.15-9.10 12 mth: 9.25-9.20
ECGD
 Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day: Oct
 31, 1986. Agreed rates Nov 26, 1986 to Dec 26, 1986.
 Scheme 1: 13.07 per cent. Schemes 1-4: 13.27 per
 cent. Reference rate Oct 1, 1986 to Oct 31, 1986
 Scheme 4: V: 12.035 per cent.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Open				High	Low	Close	Vol	Open				High	Low	Close	Vol
FT-SE 100								US Treasury Bond							
Dec 06	1840.0	1843.0	1835.0	1847.0	1839.0	1842.0	1622	120	96.51	96.51	96.44	96.44	96.44	96.44	1423
Dec 08	1840.0	1843.0	1835.0	1847.0	1839.0	1842.0	2080	120	96.51	96.51	96.44	96.44	96.44	96.44	1423
Three Month Sterling								Long Gilt							
Dec 06	57.74	57.74	57.72	57.73	57.73	57.73	128	Dec 06	55.51	55.52	55.54	55.54	55.54	55.54	1178
Dec 08	57.75	57.75	57.73	57.74	57.74	57.74	208	Dec 08	55.51	55.52	55.54	55.54	55.54	55.54	1178
Jan 09	58.82	58.82	58.83	58.83	58.83	58.83	128	Jan 09	55.54	55.54	55.54	55.54	55.54	55.54	1178
Feb 09	58.75	58.80	58.75	58.77	58.77	58.77	148	Feb 09	55.54	55.54	55.54	55.54	55.54	55.54	1178
Three Month Eurodollar								Japanese Govt Bond							
Dec 06	90.81	90.81	90.79	90.81	90.81	90.81	3564	Dec 06	107.88	107.88	107.75	107.75	107.75	107.75	500
Dec 08	90.81	90.81	90.79	90.81	90.81	90.81	3817	Dec 08	107.88	107.88	107.75	107.75	107.75	107.75	500
Jan 09	90.80	90.80	90.78	90.80	90.80	90.80	416	Jan 09	107.88	107.88	107.75	107.75	107.75	107.75	500
Feb 09	90.81	90.81	90.79	90.81	90.81	90.81	3079	Feb 09	107.88	107.88	107.75	107.75	107.75	107.75	500
Mar 09	90.81	90.81	90.79	90.81	90.81	90.81	3079	Mar 09	107.88	107.88	107.75	107.75	107.75	107.75	500

[illegible]

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check it against the daily or accumulator dividend figures. If it won't match, you've got a share of the daily or weekly accumulator prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Close	Change	%
1	Repsol	Industrials L-R	10.00	0.00	0.0
2	UEI	Electricals	10.00	0.00	0.0
3	Bramming	Paper, Print, Adv	10.00	0.00	0.0
4	Cable Wireless (sa)	Electricals	10.00	0.00	0.0
5	Ryl Bk Sec (sa)	Bank, Discount	10.00	0.00	0.0
6	Grand Met (sa)	Hotels, Caterers	10.00	0.00	0.0
7	Laird Prop	Property	10.00	0.00	0.0
8	Spayhawk	Property	10.00	0.00	0.0
9	Chrysalis	Leisure	10.00	0.00	0.0
10	Bardays (sa)	Bank, Discount	10.00	0.00	0.0
11	Batelli Foods	Food	10.00	0.00	0.0
12	Old Newspapers (sa)	Newspapers, Pub	10.00	0.00	0.0
13	Scottish (sa)	Industrials A-D	10.00	0.00	0.0
14	Mowden	Industrials E-K	10.00	0.00	0.0
15	Morrison (W)	Food	10.00	0.00	0.0
16	Domestic	Electricals	10.00	0.00	0.0
17	Bailey (Bee) Const	Building, Roads	10.00	0.00	0.0
18	Kwik Save	Food	10.00	0.00	0.0
19	Person	Drugs, Stores	10.00	0.00	0.0
20	TI	Industrials E-K	10.00	0.00	0.0
21	Bentalls	Drugs, Stores	10.00	0.00	0.0
22	Camson St	Industrials A-D	10.00	0.00	0.0
23	Mersey Docks	Shipping	10.00	0.00	0.0
24	Barlow Rand	Industrials A-D	10.00	0.00	0.0
25	Auto Sec	Electricals	10.00	0.00	0.0
26	Cap & Cosmetics	Property	10.00	0.00	0.0
27	Whitbread 'A' (sa)	Food	10.00	0.00	0.0
28	Low (W)	Food	10.00	0.00	0.0
29	Ford Motor	Motor, Aircraft	10.00	0.00	0.0
30	Blue Arrow (sa)	Industrials A-D	10.00	0.00	0.0
31	Hawker Siddeley (sa)	Industrials E-K	10.00	0.00	0.0
32	AB Elect	Electricals	10.00	0.00	0.0
33	Bolton	Textiles	10.00	0.00	0.0
34	Bam	Drugs, Stores	10.00	0.00	0.0
35	Laporte (sa)	Chemicals, Plastics	10.00	0.00	0.0
36	Carless	Oil, Gas	10.00	0.00	0.0
37	ENAP	Newspapers, Pub	10.00	0.00	0.0
38	Carless	Building, Roads	10.00	0.00	0.0
39	Shedding	Property	10.00	0.00	0.0
40	Centra Abroad	Property	10.00	0.00	0.0
41	Power Corp	Property	10.00	0.00	0.0
42	Flint (sa)	Industrials E-K	10.00	0.00	0.0

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8.00 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

BRITISH FUNDS

1988	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Open
1	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
2	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
3	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
4	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
5	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
6	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
7	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
8	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
9	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
10	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1988	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Open
1	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
2	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
3	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
4	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
5	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
6	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
7	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
8	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
9	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
10	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1988	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Open
1	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
2	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
3	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
4	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
5	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
6	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
7	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
8	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
9	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
10	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00

UNDATED

1988	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Open
1	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
2	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
3	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
4	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
5	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
6	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
7	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
8	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
9	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
10	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00

INDEX-LINKED

1988	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Open
1	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
2	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
3	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
4	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
5	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
6	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
7	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
8	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
9	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
10	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1988	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Open
1	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
2	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
3	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
4	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
5	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
6	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
7	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
8	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
9	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
10	100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Useful gains

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began November 14. Dealings end tomorrow. Contango day November 28. Settlement day December 5. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (sa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 28).

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Open
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00

100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
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100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
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100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
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100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
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100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
100.00	99.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00
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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

November 24, 1988

We have recently heard about a plethora of new techniques, often described in unfamiliar language, which suggest that we are advancing fast in the matter of picking people for jobs. All, however, is not what it may seem.

The "new" techniques are deceptive, having the appearance of a validity, which may be superficial, or even pseudo, and hence hold the promise of a false dawn. There is nought for the comfort of line managers, who throughout my working lifetime have ached for the Holy Grail in this matter of understanding people.

Am I, therefore, suggesting that we should not seek new ways of setting about picking people, or considering new approaches? Of course we should, but sometimes the newness may be suspect. Take, for instance, that trendy term in use today, "bio-data". Now there is nothing new in this to those like myself, who, in the picking of people, have proceeded in a disciplined way for a quarter of a century and, before that, did so under the disciplined umbrella of the old National Institute of Industrial Psychology, now extinct. We just do not happen to have used that term.

More important, what I am advocating is that whatever techniques are used should be subject

This abysmal way we choose a man for a job

William Isbister doubts whether we have advanced far with job selection

to the rigorous application of philosophical, logical and/or psychological arguments, and scrutinized accordingly. I am suggesting that in the case of these putatively new techniques, the same arguments which were used to attack their earlier versions will prevail and are likely to be as valid in respect of today's.

Let us, therefore, so consider one or two techniques currently in use. Undoubtedly the corner stone among these is the much-publicized "assessment centres". Once again, there is nothing particularly new about these. They are but a mildly-sophisticated version of the old group procedures, which in turn grew out of the War Office Selection Board technique used in the Second World War, and were fairly widely in use after the war

among myself, my colleagues and those who had sat at our feet.

It was said against them that, although they were intended to be a window for the selectors, too often they turned out to be a mirror. This argument, of course, is equally true of today's assessment centres. In addition, where these include today's equivalent of the "work sample" tests favoured in yesterday, even we were aware that if, for example, you are choosing a plumber, and ask each applicant, as part of your selection procedure, to wipe a joint with unfamiliar tools in an unfamiliar setting, one is not justified in jumping to conclusions about the correlation between the performance in that strange assessment situation, and the performance in real life.

My own view about assessment centres is precisely that which I took about group procedures when we used them; namely, that they are an unnecessary luxury, although desirable, maybe, on occasions. They are certainly better than wetting the finger and holding it in the air to get the answer in respect of each candidate, but, unlike the CSB procedures, I have to say that they are usually used at the wrong time and in the wrong place by the wrong people, to hide and mask the inadequacies and failures of what ought to have been done at an earlier stage.

I also believe that they may have a place in those situations where a number of untrained persons may be involved in the selection decision. Here I think

particularly of the way I used the old group procedures in the selection of chief officers in local government, where the final decision on whether to take or reject a candidate had to be the decision of a multiplicity of elected members. Although the selectors were provided with a group procedure in this situation, at the same time all the short-listed candidates appearing before them were fully assessed by myself in parallel, yet quite independently of, the actual final decision makers — and needed to be.

Other publicized techniques have usually centred around some type of special interview, frequently originating from the United States. Thus, quoting recent articles, we have been acquainted with situational inter-

viewing, which is said to add "structure"; structured interviews for picking winners, which involves sets of questions that must always be asked in the same way; the Burton group's "structured set of questions"; and what Omega describes as its "holistic hunt" in picking people, including an attitude survey questionnaire and three "structured questions".

The difficulty which relates to the four examples I have listed is that successful or unsuccessful answers to the questions posed by these special interviews may well relate to whether the interviewees have read the right books or not, or attended the right management courses.

Such structured interviews could also easily become compromised. Much more important,

There is nought for comfort of line managers, who throughout my working lifetime have ached for the Holy Grail in this matter of understanding

although not generally accepted or recognized, it must be appreciated that philosophically and psychologically, the "technical interview", of which these are the equivalent, does not have, and never has had, the "all-governing make-or-break" importance in relation to how well, or how badly the applicant will do the job subsequently.

In summary, therefore, one needs to be reminded that any technique which is used is only as good as the person who uses it. My belief is that there have been no big advances and that the general standard of picking people throughout our occupational and public life remains abysmally low, and is too often disgraceful.

William Isbister is an occupational psychologist

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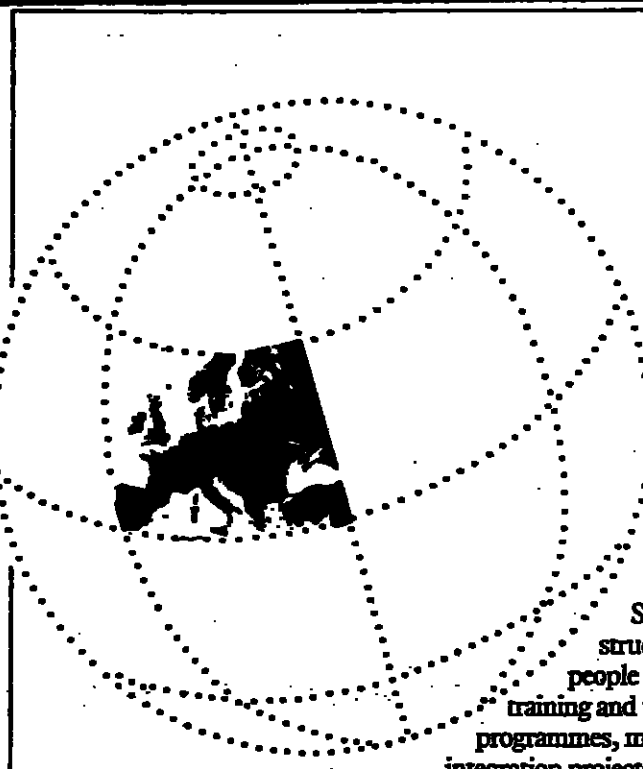
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ACTING MANAGER - £0.49 - £0.97 per annum. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company and will report to the Managing Director. The position involves a high level of responsibility and will require a strong background in management and finance.

ACTING MANAGER - £0.24 - £0.49 per annum. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company and will report to the Managing Director. The position involves a high level of responsibility and will require a strong background in management and finance.

ACTING MANAGER - £0.12 - £0.24 per annum. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company and will report to the Managing Director. The position involves a high level of responsibility and will require a strong background in management and finance.

ACTING MANAGER - £0.06 - £0.12 per annum. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company and will report to the Managing Director. The position involves a high level of responsibility and will require a strong background in management and finance.

ACTING MANAGER - £0.03 - £0.06 per annum. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company and will report to the Managing Director. The position involves a high level of responsibility and will require a strong background in management and finance.

ACTING MANAGER - £0.01 - £0.03 per annum. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company and will report to the Managing Director. The position involves a high level of responsibility and will require a strong background in management and finance.

ACTING MANAGER - £0.00 - £0.01 per annum. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company and will report to the Managing Director. The position involves a high level of responsibility and will require a strong background in management and finance.

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Changes in buying policies within the market now present both a challenge and an opportunity to enterprising sales people. To succeed you'll need a high degree of drive and enthusiasm and the ability to achieve results.

Located from home, you will report to the Field Sales Manager and be responsible for all sales within your area, maximising account penetration to the full and servicing existing customers as well as following up new leads.

Ideally in your late 20s, you will have worked in a large organisation in a sales role, preferably with experience of contract furniture or public sector sales. The ability to communicate well at all levels is essential.

The rewards will be excellent. The earnings indicator quoted consists of a significant basic salary plus commission. The car is a 1600L Estate and benefits include Contributory Pension Scheme, Free Life Assurance cover, Private Medical Plan, and 25 days annual holiday.

Our client is an equal opportunities employer.

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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

01-481 4481

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At Rank Xerox, this belief has guided over twenty years of research into the ways in which people work, interact and communicate, the result being the most comprehensive range of advanced office systems products available. Products which can be tailored to individual demands; networked to place a complete office environment manageably under the fingertips. A truly competitive advantage, evolved around the way people naturally use information to make decisions.

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Key Account Managers

£35 - £40K + Car

We're looking for experienced professionals with a relevant office systems or computer sales background in specific account sectors such as central or local government, health, education, legal or finance who possess the business acumen, drive, management and personal skills necessary to developing key areas of our business.

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To negotiate high-value contracts within the office systems, electronic printing, business products and supplies markets across a broad commercial client-base. A successful sales background in computer-based products, combined with qualities of drive and commitment plus strong commercial and presentation skills.

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All opportunities exist in Rank Xerox Regional Offices throughout the UK, and both levels offer advanced sales training, excellent product induction and support and a highly attractive package of large company benefits. For an informal, confidential discussion, call Ruth Kalinowicz or Chris Wood on (0895) 51133 during office hours. Alternatively, write to either of them at: Rank Xerox (UK) Ltd., Bridge House, Oxford Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 1HS.

The office according to Rank Xerox

We only discriminate on ability



AUSTRALIA

CHIEF OF DIVISION

DIVISION OF MATERIALS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Minimum \$A75K plus benefits

Following the appointment of the Foundation Chief, Dr C.M. Adam, to the position of Director, Institute of Industrial Technologies, we are seeking a scientist with a commitment to research management, a distinguished record of research achievement, and preferably with knowledge of the Australian materials manufacturing and processing industries, to lead and manage the Division of Materials Science and Technology. The Division's objective is to aid the creation or further development of industries based on materials science and technology. The Division has a strong core of research in the strategic areas of ceramics, alloys, catalysis, solid state science, and scientific instrumentation. It collaborates with industry in the development and commercialisation of its work. The Division has 180 staff of whom 88 are professional scientists or engineers, with a budget in 1988/89 of \$12M. The Division has a well equipped laboratory located in Clayton, Victoria. Its equipment includes a Bruker MSL 400 NMR spectrometer, various electron spectroscopic instruments, high resolution electron microscopy, advanced X-ray equipment, a laboratory scale HIP facility and a modern workshop. The Chief will be responsible for the leadership, scientific direction and integration of the Division's research programs, the effective management of the Division's operations, and for the transfer of research results to industry.

We invite applications for this position, and would also like to hear from people in this field who may wish to suggest possible candidates. Further information on this appointment can be obtained from Dr C.M. Adam, who can be contacted in Melbourne on telephone 61 3 542 2897. Applications (including the names of at least two professional referees) should be addressed to Dr J.R. Yates, Manager (Human Resources and Finance), whose postal address is:

CSIRO
Institute of Industrial
Technologies
PO Box 225
DICKSON ACT 2602
AUSTRALIA

Closing date for applications is
31 December 1988.

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Chief Executive

West Midlands, c£45,000 + Share Options + Bonus

This £20M turnover plc is one of the leading UK manufacturers in its core business. There is significant export contribution and diversification has led to the opening up of new markets. Despite all this the business needs regeneration.

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ensure customer and market confidence.

In all probability your experience in general management will have been gained in an engineering or engineering related manufacturing business. Your early functional experience will probably have been gained in finance or sales and marketing and a second business qualification will be advantageous. Most of all you must be able to demonstrate prime responsibility for having taken a business into sustained profitability.

The remuneration package will be constructed to ensure that the most able performer can be accommodated. Please write, enclosing a full career résumé which outlines your achievements to David Owens, Coopers & Lybrand Executive Resourcing, 43 Temple Row, Birmingham B2 5JT. Ref D307.

Executive
Resourcing

Coopers
& Lybrand

Sales Executives - various locations

BASIC £11K LONDON ALICE £1.5K
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We are a recently formed company with substantial financial backing. We're poised to introduce to the UK a unique new sales-promotion concept which has a reassuringly impressive history overseas. It's built around rental and service payphones which are installed in shops, offices and waiting-rooms.

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Candidates are likely to have the following background:

- An engineering qualification.
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- Consulting experience either as an internal consultant or with an established practice.
- Detailed knowledge of one or more of the following areas: Supply Chain Theory, Quality, I.T. Strategy, Transport and Distribution, Productivity Improvement.
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Please send a full CV including salary to:

Dominic McGlynn, Managing Director, Harold Whitehead & Partners
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MARINA/CONSULT SALES EXECUTIVE

Marina/Consult (U.K.) Ltd., an international marina development and marketing consultancy, is seeking an experienced Sales Executive for marine related sales and marketing.

Applicants must have proven sales experience in the world of finance/insurance, or with luxury car sales, or similar. Naval background and/or a keen interest in yachting is preferred.

This is an exciting U.K. venture, and an ideal opportunity to join an expanding organisation.

The benefits package will be discussed at interview.

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£20,00 - £25,000

We are a well established, specialist Publishing Company producing up-market magazines for Estate Agents throughout the United Kingdom.

As part of further expansion, we are seeking an Area Sales Manager to develop and control a sales team selling advertising space to professional services, local shops and businesses in promotional consumer magazines.

The position, based at our Head Office in Harrogate, will appeal particularly to someone aged 28-40, preferably with a background in advertising sales and looking for promotion into management. Responsible to the Managing Director, you will receive guidance and support but must be energetic enough to lead by example in controlling and motivating the sales force.

This is a unique opportunity for someone seeking an interesting and challenging role in a successful and expanding environment.

Remuneration, which includes basic salary, over-riding commission and bonus, will be in excess of £20,000 in the first year, plus Company car and expenses.

If you genuinely believe you are suitable for the job, please telephone Keith Smith, Chairman, on (0423) 523666 or write to me at Estates Services Limited (Dept SM), 1/3 Haywa Crescent, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG1 5BG.

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1989 is less than 8 weeks away!! so if you are dissatisfied looking for a challenge and the opportunity to earn a very respectable income - Do something about it!!!! - phone us and see if we can help!

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53A COLLEGE ROAD,
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AUSTRALIA
CHIEF OF DIVISION
DIVISION OF CHEMICALS
AND POLYMERS
Minimum \$75K plus benefits.

Dr D.H. Solomon, F.A.A., F.T.S., the Foundation Chief of the Division, has indicated his intention to retire from his position following the appointment of his successor.

We are therefore seeking a scientist with a commitment to research management, a distinguished record of research achievement, and a proven ability to lead and manage the Division of Chemicals and Polymers.

The Division's objective is to develop new technologies aimed at making the Australian chemical and plastics industry competitive in domestic and international markets, and to provide support for purification. The Division is in the process of moving to a new laboratory at Clayton, Victoria. It is well equipped with modern spectroscopic and computer graphics facilities and it has recently spent approximately \$1 million in building up its facilities. The total staff of the Division is 71 of whom 60 are professional scientists, and the budget in 1988/89 is \$10M.

The Chief will be responsible for leadership, scientific direction and integration of the Division's research programs, the effective management of the Division's operations, and for the commercialisation of research with Australian industry.

We invite applications for this position, and would also like to hear from people in this field who may wish to suggest possible candidates.

Further information on this appointment can be obtained from Dr C.M. Adam, Director of the Institute of Industrial Technologies, who can be contacted in Melbourne on telephone 61 3 542 2897.

Applications (including the names of at least two professional referees) should be addressed to Dr J.R. Yates, Manager (Human Resources and Finance), whose postal address is:

CSIRO
Institute of Industrial
Technologies
PO Box 225
DICKSON ACT 2602
AUSTRALIA

Closing date for applications
is 31 December 1988.

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**THE WILL TO WIN,
THE COURAGE TO LEAD**

To be a successful force in the tough, competitive world of Recruitment Consultancy takes more than professionalism, initiative and financial expertise. It also takes creative leadership - the ability to identify and develop new opportunities, to motivate staff, to maintain outstanding customer service, and to plan today for the commercial and technological challenges of tomorrow.

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It's a real business-building role that calls for at least 10 years' experience in secretarial recruitment, a thorough understanding of the recruitment market, and proven management skills. Although based in Central London, you must be willing to travel to the various parts of our consultancy network.

The rewards, like the responsibilities, are great. Apart from an excellent salary, you will receive generous executive benefits including a quality car, a pension scheme, private health insurance - and career prospects that could take you to a board position a lot quicker than you think.

Interested? Then please send your cv. to Ashwood Associates, Room 3, Terranova House, Kiln Lane, off Easthamstead Road, Bracknell, Berks RG12 5EU, who are handling our response. Our own staff have been notified of the placing of this advertisement.

SWIFT

To handle a million messages per day, you've got to have the S.W.I.F.T. spirit.

Created in 1973, our company is responsible for operating a telecommunications network that today links more than 2,400 banks and financial institutions throughout the world. Planned originally for 300,000 messages per day, the S.W.I.F.T. system this year is daily handling one million. To manage such rapid growth, you've got to have real team spirit. Just ask any one of our 450 team members (31 nationalities, average age 33) at our world headquarters in La Hulpe, outside Brussels. In such a changing business, each individual must be both self-motivated and a team player at the same time. This results in an environment that favours the individual's personal growth and the rapid acquisition of experience.

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Because a high quality, reliable service is a top priority, S.W.I.F.T.'s culture includes recognition of individual merit, and other incentives that are as varied as they are effective. By the way, although we work hard, we've also offered ourselves the joys of relaxation in a unique complex of top-grade sports facilities. Because we believe in the motto: "work hard, play hard".

If you respond to this message, and you sincerely believe you correspond to the profile outlined here, tell us so. If you really want to fulfil yourself (or, even better, to surpass yourself) S.W.I.F.T. will give you the means to do so.

Personnel in banks and other financial institutions need instruction in how to use the S.W.I.F.T. Network - this is the work of the Education Department. Some of the instruction is carried out by means of interactive video and, in the future, computer-based training will also be used. It is planned to introduce a substantial AI component into these courses and we are therefore aiming to recruit the following personnel to work at our Headquarters in Belgium, near Brussels:

**ARE YOU DOING THE
JOB YOU WANT TO...
...OR
HAVE
TO?**

Many of us are so involved with the jobs we're doing and the responsibilities we have that we seldom stop to wonder whether we are making full use of our potential.

We are working because we have to - we have mortgages to pay, families to support, rates, gas, electricity and the list goes on. These are not so much excuses as facts of life.

Another fact is that most of us have a nagging doubt that we could be doing better but we just don't know what to do about it.

Chusid Lander has changed all that.

We are a group of specialist career consultants whose sole function is to guide executives and professional people earning £25,000 a year or more, and help them achieve their individual objectives.

We guarantee that we will commit our time and effort until you are satisfied that your career objectives have been realised.

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Salary £20,000 plus benefits and car

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This is a new position. As head of the administrative and management function, you will be responsible for developing and implementing new ideas within the financial and administrative framework of the firm.

Aged 30-50, you will have already gained considerable experience in dealing with people at all levels and in the financial and administrative functions of an organisation. You are already familiar with modern management techniques and new technology.

We currently employ about 70 staff.

Please write, with detailed CV, to:-
Mr James Bowyer
CRUTES
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Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 1RQ

Project Leader

(Ref. EDUI1)

The Project Leader will be responsible for the day-to-day supervision of the technical development area and for the supervision of the maintenance of existing courseware and of the development of new courseware. S/he will also contribute to the purchasing of the necessary hardware and software.

The successful candidate will be familiar with a number of the following areas: project management, software engineering, C, SAM, DOS, PCs, interactive video, computer graphics, computer networks, expert system shells, AI and hypertext. S/he must be able to manage and motivate a team of people. S/he should have an excellent command of English. A knowledge of French and German would be desirable.

Course Designer

(Ref. EDUI2)

The course designer will supervise, in conjunction with the Development Manager, the design and production of new instructor-based and computer/interactive video based courses for the use of S.W.I.F.T. member banks, for the financial services industry in general and for internal training purposes.

The successful candidate will be familiar with a number of the following areas: S.W.I.F.T. procedures, banking procedures, instructional design, computer-based training (CBT) and interactive video. The ability to manage people and projects is an important requirement. S/he should be familiar with the use of IBM PCs and word processing.

Programmers

(Ref. EDUI3)

The programmers will develop and maintain interactive video and CBT courseware in C and SAM.

The successful candidates must be able to work independently and be very well organised. They will have an excellent knowledge of C, UNIX, DOS, software engineering, some knowledge of AI and hypertext. Experience of programming for CBT and interactive video applications, and computer graphics would be desirable. An excellent knowledge of English is needed, some French being an asset.

For all these positions, S.W.I.F.T. offers an attractive salary and excellent benefit programmes, optimal working conditions, reimbursement of relocation costs.

Please send your hand-written application letter with detailed CV and a photograph to:
S.W.I.F.T. Network Services - Personnel Department,
Avenue E. Solvay 81, B-1310 La Hulpe - Belgium.
Applications should reach S.W.I.F.T. not later than January 7th 1989.
All applications will be acknowledged and absolute discretion is guaranteed.

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TVS Entertainment plc, the fast growing Television and Media Company, are looking for an Office Manager to administer their London offices.

Duties and responsibilities will include the running of the buildings, administration and services at several London sites. These include the Headquarters for the TVS Entertainment Group and a demanding media sales office, currently employing over 100 people, at which the post is based.

Applicants should have a proven track record in office services and facility management and experience within estates management would be desirable. Candidates should have strong inter-personal and negotiating skills and be able to handle effectively a multiplicity of short and long-term problems.

Suitably qualified and experienced candidates should apply in writing quoting reference 156L88/T to:
Ian McGuinness, Personnel Manager,
TVS, Vinters Park, Maidstone,
Kent ME14 5NZ.
Closing date: 8th December 1988.

TVS welcomes applications from all people regardless of sex, race or disability.

TVS ENTERTAINMENT

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RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT**

One of the largest, European based, agrochemical companies in the world is looking for a General Manager to run its inventive research.

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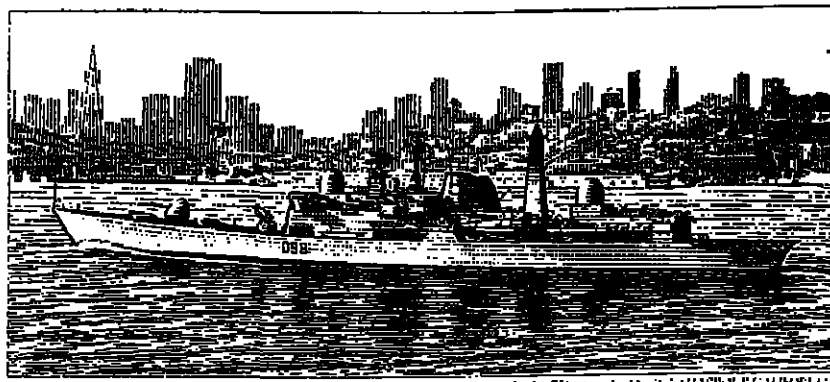
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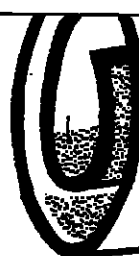
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HORIZONS

The attractions of 'going local'

Emigration from Hong Kong has left job opportunities for expatriate professionals, reports Nina Reed

One of the halcyon days of colonial splendour for a new graduate going to Hong Kong. Huge rents and a skilled pool of local labour have made those days a memory for all but the privileged few who work for the "Hong", the well established large companies like Jardines or Swire or the big international banks.

However, for graduates who do not mind "going local" there are good opportunities. Going local is not so bad, it may mean living on an outlying island, in a rather small apartment, but it is hardly slumping it. Most people find the benefits of living in a fast-moving, dynamic, multi-cultural territory more than make up for it.

In the Foreign Correspondents Club, the haunt of local journalists, there are many young freelancers who advertise for flat mates, and

often share the expenses for a full time maid.

Why are there opportunities for expatriate graduates when not so long ago it looked like Hong Kong was going local in a really big way? Well, there still is a trend, but there are professions where expatriates are needed and the much talked about brain drain is causing gaps in the employment market.

As Mr Martin Darke, senior consultant of Ernst & Whinney executive search division, Hong Kong, explains: "The trend in recent years has been towards localisation; partly because of the excessive cost of hiring an expat, but also because we now have a pool of qualified and experienced middle and senior local managers."

"With the run up to 1997, however, it is the brain drain which is affecting this pool of professionals and junior and middle management."

"Companies are experiencing difficulties in replacing emigrants."

The brain drain causes real strain on managerial muscle. The territory, for all its sophistication, has no natural resources. Virtually all raw materials have to be imported, as well as food and water.

As one of Hong Kong's leading businessmen, Mr Gordon Wu, managing director of



Hopewell Holdings, says: "The only resources we have are people and incentive". So one can understand the concern over the exodus.

Though most Hong Kong business would prefer local talent in the long-term, it is recognized that in the short term the territory will have to hire people from the "outside".

"Where there is a demand for expats it is for professionals, lawyers and accountants, and in the computer industry," says Martin Darke.

"Management consultancy is also an expanding field as

Chinese companies learn to cope with the existing labour problem by spending money on improving systems through office automation. With the hotel industry booming, there are plenty of vacancies in this field.

"Training specialists across the board are also in demand. Again this is a measure of overcoming problems by getting the most out of existing, or reduced, workforce."

According to the Hong Kong Management Association, the financial and insurance fields are suffering from the loss of personnel.

It is Hong Kong's superb

infrastructure and free market which has led to its spectacular growth. It is a sophisticated financial centre and topped the world list of high performing container ports in 1987. Private investment in plant and machinery grew by 11.3 per cent in 1986 and 27.5 per cent in 1987.

This means investors are willing to invest despite uncertainty about 1997. The territory's investment in China reached \$16 billion in 1987. It is rumoured that more than one million people are work directly for Hong Kong factories in China.

The new relationship with

China has allowed Hong Kong to expand its production frontier. It offsets the labour shortage in Hong Kong, where the unemployment rate is at a record low of 1.9 per cent.

There is plenty of evidence of overseas companies setting up regional headquarters and, in some cases, manufacturing plants across the border in economic zones such as Shenzhen and Zhuhai to take advantage of China's cheap labour pool. Hong Kong is recognized as the gateway to China and with more companies moving to the territory, this places even greater pressure on the labour market.

Pressure is also coming from other dynamic centres in the Far East. The restrictive barriers are coming down in Taiwan and Korea and these countries are attracting Hong Kong talent, especially in the advertising and marketing field, leaving an even greater gap in the local market.

The airlines and telecommunications industry has spent the past few years gearing up to become the communications centre for all of southern China - and they have lost people.

There will also be a need for experts, especially engineers, in about six years. The new University of Science and Technology should be providing graduates but in the short

term there are opportunities for expatriates.

Hong Kong is traditionally made up of flexible, lean management, which means it can be thrown off course if it loses even a small part of the team.

So with some research into jobs available for expatriates, in many cases on a short-term contract, it is a good time to look to the territory. For the few who have the relevant qualifications and do not mind hard work, the working environment can be rewarding and exciting.

The cultural gap should not, however, be underestimated. Although residents drive on "our" side of the road, and the road signs look familiar, do not be lulled into a false sense of security. The people speak Cantonese and although most speak English, confusion can occur.

Interpersonal skills are also a problem - the Cantonese are hard working and efficient, but one must be careful not to embarrass colleagues.

"Loss of face" is a real fear amongst the local Hong Kong Chinese - one just has to develop empathy with local feeling.

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NOTICEBOARD

Engineers act on shortage

● The shortage of good engineers is prompting the Engineering Council to take action to encourage young people into the profession. A joint report published this month by the Council and the Standing Conference on University Entrance comments: "The gap at the Higher National level is extremely serious and already reflected in reported shortages."

The report recommends wider access to universities, with particular reference to Business and Technical Education Council (BTEC) and European Baccalaureate entry points. It also urges the establishment of appropriate Access courses - designed for students who may not have traditional entry qualifications. The report, *Admissions to universities: action to increase the supply of engineers*, is available from The Engineering Council, 10 Malet Street, London WC2R 3ER.

● People interested in a management accountancy career should consult the new step-by-step guide produced by the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA). The *Careers Information Pack* contains a guide to management accountancy, the institute and the professional qualification. Copies are available from CIMA, 65 Portland Place, London W1N 4AB (01-637 2311).

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FINANCE DIRECTOR/COMPANY SECRETARY

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Purchaser entitled to rely on valuation surveyor's doubt

Cross and Another v David Martin & Mortimer (a firm) Before Mr Justice Phillips [Judgment November 18]

A house purchaser could properly expect to be informed in a valuation surveyor's report and valuation survey of any feature of the property which involved uncertainty as to its condition even if the surveyor's opinion as to its significance was reassuring.

Mr Justice Phillips so held in *Cross and Another v David Martin & Mortimer* (a firm) before Mr Justice Phillips.

MR JUSTICE PHILLIPS said on June 18, 1984 the plaintiffs purchased a freehold semi-detached house at 13 Dane Acres, Bishop's Cleeve, Shropshire, from the defendants. Before doing so they instructed the defendants to survey the property by doing a housebuyer's report and valuation survey. Mr David Mortimer inspected the property and provided a report. The plaintiffs' case was that Mr Mortimer negligently failed to draw attention to three significant features of the property which were not mentioned in the report, namely: (1) settlement of solid slabs forming the ground floor; (2) misalignment of a number of first-floor doors and (3) alteration of the roof trusses to enable a loft to be converted into a room.

The existence of those features was not in dispute. The first issue was whether Mr Mortimer should have reported subsidence of the ground floor slabs. The day after Mr and Mrs Cross moved into the property a professional carpet layer came to lay carpets in the lounge and found the floor irregular. The Crosses contacted the defendants and Mr Martin, the other partner, carried out an inspection.

Mr Martin found that at the time of his partner's visit the irregularities were not apparent due to the fitted carpets and he did not consider any action had to be taken in any event. The plaintiffs took independent advice from architects who reported that there were irregularities in the floor in the entrance hall where the carpet was still laid which were obvious to the eye and the difference in level was noticeable when walking across.

There were certain general features about the house which should have led Mr Mortimer to consider the possibility of subsidence of the floor with particular care: (i) the fact the house was built on clay; (ii) the fact there were popular trees standing in the vicinity and (iii) the fact the house was built on a nine degree slope which would require an unusually large amount of fill under the floor slab.

Mr Mortimer should have noticed the hump in the hall and that should have alerted him to the possibility of subsidence. The next question was whether Mr Mortimer was negligent in failing to comment on the subsidence.

In his Lordship's opinion a house purchaser could properly expect to be informed of any feature of the property which involved uncertainty as to its condition even if the surveyor's opinion as to its significance was reassuring. When considering whether Mr Mortimer should have reported the matter, it was not just necessary to have regard to Mr Mortimer's opinion of the significance of the feature but also to any significant alternative possibilities that Mr Mortimer could not affirmatively rule out.

Was Mr Mortimer negligent in failing to comment on the misalignment of doors? Mr Mortimer could not remember and said he could have followed his normal practice of opening and closing doors and any misalignment

was no more than typical and was not cause for concern.

However, there had been some misalignment and his Lordship considered that Mr Mortimer could not have followed his usual practice of opening and closing doors and was negligent in failing to comment on the distortion to the doors.

Was Mr Mortimer negligent in failing to comment more fully on the loft conversion?

The conversion was significant in two material respects: (i) the original roof space design would not enter the kind of five loading which could be imposed by a user of the room; (ii) a roof truss was designed on the basis of the strength of all its members acting in unison. The effect of removing or replacing would invalidate the original design concept.

Mr Mortimer should have concluded from the fact of the conversion alone that the loft room was not necessarily structurally strong enough to sustain live loading if used as a room and that conversion might have reduced roof strength.

Mr Mortimer reported that the basic construction of the property was sound but that specific inquiries should be made about the loft conversion. Mr and Mrs Cross did not read that comment as a warning and nor should they reasonably have done so. They referred that question to their solicitor who drew a blank as the conversion had been effected before the vendor acquired the property.

Mr Mortimer's comment did not deal admirably with the position. He should have informed the plaintiffs that unless building regulations had been complied with it was not necessarily safe to use the loft other than as light storage space; although as far as the adequacy of the roof structure was concerned Mr Mortimer could properly have been reassured.

Regina v Eden District Council, Ex parte Moffat Before Lord Justice Croom-Johnson, Lord Justice Nourse and Sir Denis Buckley [Judgment November 8]

A working party set up by a district council was not a committee or sub-committee of the council and therefore a councillor who was not a member of the working party was not entitled to attend its meetings.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by Mr John Moffat, a member of the Eden District Council, against a decision by Mr Justice Webster that the council was not a committee or sub-committee of the council and therefore Mr Moffat was not entitled to attend its meetings.

The Court of Appeal allowed a cross-appeal by the council against Mr Justice Webster's decision that the council was not a committee or sub-committee of the council and therefore Mr Moffat was not entitled to attend its meetings.

MR DEREK WOOD, QC and Mr William Braidwaite for Mr Moffat; Mr Eric Somerset Jones, QC and Mr John H. Roberts for the council.

LORD JUSTICE CROOM-JOHNSON said that Mr Somerset Jones had conceded that whether or not a council was exercising a power or fulfilling a duty, it was in each case discharging a function. He submitted that the council had power to appoint a working party without its being a committee for the purposes of section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 and thus giving Mr Moffat the right under the standing orders to attend its meetings.

It was argued for the council that the presence on the working party of senior officers of the council reinforced the intention expressed in the documents that it should not be a committee. Because section 104(1) of the Act required that members of committees or sub-committees

That argument was correct. The presence on the working party of officers of the council was inconsistent with its being a committee or sub-committee.

Accepting, for present purposes, the suggestion that it was a "function" of the district council to organize itself and so to conduct its affairs as to be able to discharge its duties with efficiency, it did not follow that to have a think about the best ways of doing so could only be done by a committee or sub-committee governed by sections 101 and 102 of the Act.

There was no reason why it could not set up a working party which was not a committee or sub-committee, but a function under the subsidiary power given to it by section 111.

Section 101 empowered the council to discharge its functions by delegating its powers or functions to some other body or person. Here, the council was not delegating anything to anybody. It was indicating that it was open to and anxious to receive advice, which could be given to it by something which was not a committee.

His Lordship concluded that Mr Moffat did not, therefore, have a right under the standing orders to attend the meetings of the working party.

If unable to rely on the standing orders, Mr Moffat put his case on another way. That was on the basis that as an elected councillor he was entitled to see documents and attend the meetings in order to be able to fulfil his public duty. That right had existed at common law for many years.

Mr Justice Webster applied the principles laid down in *R v Birmingham City District Council, Ex parte O'Connell* (1983) 1 AC 578, *R v Hackney London Borough Council, Ex parte Gampers* (1985) 1 WLR 1229 and *R v Sheffield City Council, Ex parte Chadwick* (1985) 84 LGR 563 and held that there was no reason why they should not be applied in appropriate cases to the transactions of working parties as well as to committees or sub-committees.

That argument was correct. The presence on the working party of officers of the council was inconsistent with its being a committee or sub-committee.

Accepting, for present purposes, the suggestion that it was a "function" of the district council to organize itself and so to conduct its affairs as to be able to discharge its duties with efficiency, it did not follow that to have a think about the best ways of doing so could only be done by a committee or sub-committee governed by sections 101 and 102 of the Act.

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Court entitled to admit evidence of expert who had not seen child

Regina v Hove Juvenile Court, Ex parte W Before Mr Justice Waterhouse [Judgment November 14]

A juvenile court hearing an application by a local authority for the care of a child under section 1(2)(a) and (c) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1967 was not wrong to have admitted written and oral evidence of an expert witness who had not examined the child or seen video recordings of interviews with her.

Mr Justice Waterhouse so held in the Queen's Bench Division in *Regina v Hove Juvenile Court, Ex parte W* before Mr Justice Waterhouse. A juvenile court hearing an application by a local authority for the care of a child under section 1(2)(a) and (c) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1967 was not wrong to have admitted written and oral evidence of an expert witness who had not examined the child or seen video recordings of interviews with her.

of a place of safety order in July 1987.

Two interviews had been held with the child by a social worker and a woman police constable but those had not been recorded or seen by the expert witness, Dr Eileen Vizard, a child psychiatrist.

MR JUSTICE WATERHOUSE said that the applicants' complaint was that in the absence of an independent record they could not check the accuracy of the accounts of those interviewing, they could not have the results of what happened checked by other experts for an alternative opinion, and that neither those interviews nor the evidence of Dr Vizard based on them should be admitted without video backup.

It was regrettable that there was no video or tape but the justices still had to hear the best

evidence available - which they had done. The interviewers had used well known methods. There was no reason to think that there had been anything tenuous or amateurish about the way in which the interviews or investigations had been handled.

There was no error in law or procedure as long as both parties had the opportunity to cross-examine expert witnesses and test their evidence which was desirable when one considered the amount of advice from purported experts in the media to which justices in such cases were now subject.

Solicitors: George Reeves, Leander & Co, Brighton; Donnie Mileyham & Haddock, Brighton; Miss Alison Harbour, Hove.

Correction

In *Luxmoore-May and Another v Messenger Mag Baverstock* (The Times November 23) Tuck St Mann, Dorking, were solicitors for the plaintiffs and did not instruct London agents.

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Rebel Song set to lead victory march of Sherwood quartet

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Having had a treble at Worcester already this season, the Sherwood brothers, Oliver and Simon, can go one better at Wincanton today by landing a four-timer with Chiasse Forte (12.45), Rebel Song (1.15), Polar Bear (1.45) and Patricio (3.15).

I saw all four in their boxes on Tuesday evening when I was given a tour of the stables by Oliver, and they all looked primed for the occasion.

The presence of Rebel Song, who won the Sun Alliance Hurdle at the National Hunt Festival at Cheltenham last March, in the Cerne Abbas Chase will arguably generate the most interest.

This will be his first step along a path that will ultimately lead to Cheltenham again, and a crack at the Sun Alliance Chase, which is a stable companion The West. He also won for his owner, Mrs Christopher Heath, last March.

The stage is set for Rebel Song to begin this season where he left off last, on a triumphant note, especially as

he has shown the right approach to jumping fences on the schooling ground.

Chiasse Forte can set the ball rolling by winning the first division of the Young Farmers Novices' Hurdle at the expense of Real Class, who disappointed in his only race over hurdles last season after looking a good horse when he was running in bumpers.

In common with many in the stable, Chiasse Forte spent his formative years in Ireland where he showed the requisite promise, as indeed did



Oliver Sherwood: prospects of a four-timer at Wincanton

Patricio, who is napped to win the other division.

Patricio ran already this season, at Chiswick where he finished 15 lengths ahead of the third horse when going under by three lengths to the useful Bruton Street. A reputation of that form should see him put paid to Givus A Buck.

Polar Bear has arguably the hardest task of the quartet in the Wessex Handicap Hurdle now that Santopadre, Tel-trader and Blanton Reserve have also stood their ground.

However, hopes are high the eight-year-old, who was a good horse in Ireland four seasons ago when trained by Edward O'Grady, is now poised for victory following that promising first run at Devon and Exeter earlier this month.

"Just about everything that could go wrong with a horse has happened to Polar Bear since I got him," Sherwood said, "but he's right again now. If there's any justice his owner's patience deserves to be rewarded."

ready has four victories over hurdles and one over fences to his credit on the Somerset track, looks set to add the EBF Chard Intermediate Chase to that tally, while Highway Express should find the distance of the Lord Stalbridge Memorial Gold Cup also to his liking.

At Haydock, Sacred Path, another Sherwood-trained horse, will have his first race of the season in the St Helens Handicap Chase. This is the horse which started favourite for this year's Grand National only to fall at the first fence.

However, in this instance I doubt him beating Run And Skip, who at Cheltenham 12 days ago proved too strong for The Langholm Dyer, much to the surprise of those who had written him off.

Racing threatened
The meetings at Solihull and Leicester tomorrow are in danger. Solihull has a six-inch covering of snow, while Leicester's clerk of the course, Nick Lees, said yesterday: "We could not have raced either yesterday or today, and with frost forecast we need an improvement."

Northern raiders in demand

By George Rae

The northern challengers High Edge Grey and Handy Trick were solidly backed yesterday for the £25,000-added Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury on Saturday.

High Edge Grey, attempting to give Hawick-based Ken Oliver a second Hennessy success following Fighting Fit in 1979, is generally a 9-2 favourite - only Ladbrokes keep him at 5-1 - while Handy Trick, who has been the best of the two, is 7-1 from 10-1. Ladbrokes have also trimmed him a point to 6-1.

Handy Trick is with the 1987 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner The Thane, and two other Northern-trained horses. The Thane's participation is dependent on there being some cut in the ground.

There was also interest in two at the top of the handicap, Kildale, the best of the two, is 7-1 with 10-1. Ladbrokes have also trimmed him a point to 6-1.

Both were backed from 10-1 to 7-1 with 10-1. Ladbrokes have also trimmed him a point to 6-1.

Smart Beau Ranger sounds early Gold Cup warning

By Alan Lee

Even the pessimistic front of Martin Pipe was relaxed as he shaded yesterday after Beau Ranger had advanced his Gold Cup credentials by giving victory to an emphatic beating to a field of high-class handicappers in Haydock's valuable Edward Hamner Memorial Chase.

Pipe had been at his most self-deprecating after winning the first two races on the card. But when Beau Ranger returned from arguably the most impressive success of his still maturing career, completing a treble for the trainer and champion jockey Peter Scudamore, the relief was transparent. "That," he said, "was the one which worried me."

A year ago, Beau Ranger won this race carrying 10st 12lb, having already won the Mackeson Gold Cup with a feather weight. Yesterday, burdened by 12st 13lb, he made every yard of the running and stayed on strongly to hold Smart Tar by six lengths. Pipe, with the semblance of a grin, admitted: "He must have been a certainty for the Mackeson last year, mustn't he?"

This latest extension of the Pipe-Scudamore monopoly was threatened by nothing so much as the weather. Snow and frost, which had been seen off but freezing fog all but forced an

abandonment. The first race was off 40 minutes late and at the appointed starting time prospects had been remote, but of any racing and of a full cast of trainers and jockeys, many having been held up by the appalling motorway conditions.

Scudamore, typically, was on site early and, having been pleasantly surprised by racing going ahead, wasted no time in maintaining his remarkable strike rate. He won the first relatively smoothly on the three-year-old Jabrut, who had drifted from 5-1 to 9-4, but then had to work tirelessly on Tarqogan's Best in the County Handicap Chase.

Bright Intervals, trained by Scudamore's main trainer, Charlie Brooks, was still a length up when fatigue flooded him at the last but the champion, who routed Tarqogan's Best to hold Lord Moss by 1½ lengths, was adamant he would have won anyway. "I was always hard at work on him and it is very tiring ground," he said.

If that sounded like a cautionary word on the chances of Beau Ranger winning first time out it was plainly not true. This horse has not stopped improving since coming under the care of Pipe, who reported that his blood count was something which he sets great store, and several points better yesterday.

Scudamore, now on 79 winners, was well enough placed to complete his fourth of the day when Bales came down in the BNV Series qualifier, leaving the way clear for Biggun and Slalom to fight out the finish. Biggun had two previous chase wins to his name but Slalom, far from being overhauled, landed full of running after the last and the contest was soon over.

than when he won the Mackeson.

Scudamore soon had him 10 lengths clear, before steadying him after a circuit. Bob Tisdall was prominent when falling six out and Tickle Boo looked dangerous before fading quickly in his first race for a year. But as they emerged from the mist and landed over the last only the bottom weight, Smart Tar, remained a threat - and Scudamore had only to ask the question for Beau Ranger to storm clear again.

Pipe was his usual vague self about future plans. "He could run at Cheltenham next month, he could go to Kempton for the King George or he might even go to Ireland - I like to leave things late. But this was a very good performance."

Hills' reaction was to cut Beau Ranger to 14-1 for the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

Scudamore, now on 79 winners, was well enough placed to complete his fourth of the day when Bales came down in the BNV Series qualifier, leaving the way clear for Biggun and Slalom to fight out the finish. Biggun had two previous chase wins to his name but Slalom, far from being overhauled, landed full of running after the last and the contest was soon over.

HAYDOCK PARK

Selections
By Mandarin

1.00 Solicitor's Choice.	2.30 Run And Skip.
1.30 Brookmont.	3.00 Centre Express.
2.00 Enemy Action.	3.30 Docklands Express.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.00 GREAT SAILING.

Going: soft

1.0 EBF NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £1,010; 2m) (13 runners)

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3.00 RAINFORD CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (£2,280; 2m 4f) (5 runners)

1	4-11-12 CENTRE ATTRACTION 10 (P) (R) (G) (H) (I) (J) (K) (L) (M) (N) (O) (P) (Q) (R) (S) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z) (AA) (AB) (AC) (AD) (AE) (AF) (AG) (AH) (AI) (AJ) (AK) (AL) (AM) (AN) (AO) (AP) (AQ) (AR) (AS) (AT) (AU) (AV) (AW) (AX) (AY) (AZ) (BA) (BB) (BC) (BD) (BE) (BF) (BG) (BH) (BI) (BJ) (BK) (BL) (BM) (BN) (BO) (BP) (BQ) (BR) (BS) (BT) (BU) (BV) (BW) (BX) (BY) (BZ) (CA) (CB) (CC) (CD) (CE) (CF) (CG) (CH) (CI) (CJ) (CK) (CL) (CM) (CN) (CO) (CP) (CQ) (CR) (CS) (CT) (CU) (CV) (CW) (CX) (CY) (CZ) (DA) (DB) (DC) (DD) (DE) (DF) (DG) (DH) (DI) (DJ) (DK) (DL) (DM) (DN) (DO) (DP) (DQ) (DR) (DS) (DT) (DU) (DV) (DW) (DX) (DY) (DZ) (EA) (EB) (EC) (ED) (EE) (EF) (EG) (EH) (EI) (EJ) (EK) (EL) (EM) (EN) (EO) (EP) (EQ) (ER) (ES) (ET) (EU) (EV) (EW) (EX) (EY) (EZ) (FA) (FB) (FC) (FD) (FE) (FF) (FG) (FH) (FI) (FJ) (FK) (FL) (FM) (FN) (FO) (FP) (FQ) (FR) (FS) (FT) (FU) (FV) (FW) (FX) (FY) (FZ) (GA) (GB) (GC) (GD) (GE) (GF) (GG) (GH) (GI) (GJ) (GK) (GL) (GM) (GN) (GO) (GP) (GQ) (GR) (GS) (GT) (GU) (GV) (GW) (GX) (GY) (GZ) (HA) (HB) (HC) (HD) (HE) (HF) (HG) (HH) (HI) (HJ) (HK) (HL) (HM) (HN) (HO) (HP) (HQ) (HR) (HS) (HT) (HU) (HV) (HW) (HX) (HY) (HZ) (IA) (IB) (IC) (ID) (IE) (IF) (IG) (IH) (II) (IJ) (IK) (IL) (IM) (IN) (IO) (IP) (IQ) (IR) (IS) (IT) (IU) (IV) (IW) (IX) (IY) (IZ) (JA) (JB) (JC) (JD) (JE) (JF) (JG) (JH) (JI) (JJ) (JK) (JL) (JM) (JN) (JO) (JP) (JQ) (JR) (JS) (JT) (JU) (JV) (JW) (JX) (JY) (JZ) (KA) (KB) (KC) (KD) (KE) (KF) (KG) (KH) (KI) (KJ) (KL) (KM) (KN) (KO) (KP) (KQ) (KR) (KS) (KT) (KU) (KV) (KW) (KX) (KY) (KZ) (LA) (LB) (LC) (LD) (LE) (LF) (LG) (LH) (LI) (LJ) (LK) (LM) (LN) (LO) (LP) (LQ) (LR) (LS) (LT) (LU) (LV) (LW) (LX) (LY) (LZ) (MA) (MB) (MC) (MD) (ME) (MF) (MG) (MH) (MI) (MJ) (MK) (ML) (MN) (MO) (MP) (MQ) (MR) (MS) (MT) (MU) (MV) (MW) (MX) (MY) (MZ) (NA) (NB) (NC) (ND) (NE) (NF) (NG) (NH) (NI) (NJ) (NK) (NL) (NM) (NO) (NP) (NQ) (NR) (NS) (NT) (NU) (NV) (NW) (NX) (NY) (NZ) (OA) (OB) (OC) (OD) (OE) (OF) (OG) (OH) (OI) (OJ) (OK) (OL) (OM) (ON) (OO) (OP) (OQ) (OR) (OS) (OT) (OU) (OV) (OW) (OX) (OY) (OZ) (PA) (PB) (PC) (PD) (PE) (PF) (PG) (PH) (PI) (PJ) (PK) (PL) (PM) (PN) (PO) (PP) (PQ) (PR) (PS) (PT) (PU) (PV) (PW) (PX) (PY) (PZ) (QA) (QB) (QC) (QD) (QE) (QF) (QG) (QH) (QI) (QJ) (QK) (QL) (QM) (QN) (QO) (QP) (QQ) (QR) (QS) (QT) (QU) (QV) (QW) (QX) (QY) (QZ) (RA) (RB) (RC) (RD) (RE) (RF) (RG) (RH) (RI) (RJ) (RK) (RL) (RM) (RN) (RO) (RP) (RQ) (RS) (RT) (RU) (RV) (RW) (RX) (RY) (RZ) (SA) (SB) (SC) (SD) (SE) (SF) (SG) (SH) (SI) (SJ) (SK) (SL) (SM) (SN) (SO) (SP) (SQ) (SR) (SS) (ST) (SU) (SV) (SW) (SX) (SY) (SZ) (TA) (TB) (TC) (TD) (TE) (TF) (TG) (TH) (TI) (TJ) (TK) (TL) (TM) (TN) (TO) (TP) (TQ) (TR) (TS) (TT) (TU) (TV) (TW) (TX) (TY) (TZ) (UA) (UB) (UC) (UD) (UE) (UF) (UG) (UH) (UI) (UJ) (UK) (UL) (UM) (UN) (UO) (UP) (UQ) (UR) (US) (UT) (UU) (UV) (UW) (UX) (UY) (UZ) (VA) (VB) (VC) (VD) (VE) (VF) (VG) (VH) (VI) (VJ) (VK) (VL) (VM) (VN) (VO) (VP) (VQ) (VR) (VS) (VT) (VU) (VV) (VW) (VX) (VY) (VZ) (WA) (WB) (WC) (WD) (WE) (WF) (WG) (WH) (WI) (WJ) (WK) (WL) (WM) (WN) (WO) (WP) (WQ) (WR) (WS) (WT) (WU) (WV) (WW) (WX) (WY) (WZ) (XA) (XB) (XC) (XD) (XE) (XF) (XG) (XH) (XI) (XJ) (XK) (XL) (XM) (XN) (XO) (XP) (XQ) (XR) (XS) (XT) (XU) (XV) (XW) (XX) (XY) (XZ) (YA) (YB) (YC) (YD) (YE) (YF) (YG) (YH) (YI) (YJ) (YK) (YL) (YM) (YN) (YO) (YP) (YQ) (YR) (YS) (YT) (YU) (YV) (YW) (YX) (YY) (YZ) (ZA) (ZB) (ZC) (ZD) (ZE) (ZF) (ZG) (ZH) (ZI) (ZJ) (ZK) (ZL) (ZM) (ZN) (ZO) (ZP) (ZQ) (ZR) (ZS) (ZT) (ZU) (ZV) (ZW) (ZX) (ZY) (ZZ)
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3.30 CORAL GOLDEN HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier: £2,763; 2m 6f) (20 runners)

1	11-11-14 CENTRE ATTRACTION 10 (P) (R) (G) (H) (I) (J) (K) (L) (M) (N) (O) (P) (Q) (R) (S) (T) (U) (V) (W) (X) (Y) (Z) (AA) (AB) (AC) (AD) (AE) (AF) (AG) (AH) (AI) (AJ) (AK) (AL) (AM) (AN) (AO) (AP) (AQ) (AR) (AS) (AT) (AU) (AV) (AW) (AX) (AY) (AZ) (BA) (BB) (BC) (BD) (BE) (BF) (BG) (BH) (BI) (BJ) (BK) (BL) (BM) (BN) (BO) (BP) (BQ) (BR) (BS) (BT) (BU) (BV) (BW) (BX) (BY) (BZ) (CA) (CB) (CC) (CD) (CE) (CF) (CG) (CH) (CI) (CJ) (CK) (CL) (CM) (CN) (CO) (CP) (CQ) (CR) (CS) (CT) (CU) (CV) (CW) (CX) (CY) (CZ) (DA) (DB) (DC) (DD) (DE) (DF) (DG) (DH) (DI) (DJ) (DK) (DL) (DM) (DN) (DO) (DP) (DQ) (DR) (DS) (DT) (DU) (DV) (DW) (DX) (DY) (DZ) (EA) (EB) (EC) (ED) (EE) (EF) (EG) (EH) (EI) (EJ) (EK) (EL) (EM) (EN) (EO) (EP) (EQ) (ER) (ES) (ET) (EU) (EV) (EW) (EX) (EY) (EZ) (FA) (FB) (FC) (FD) (FE) (FF) (FG) (FH) (FI) (FJ) (FK) (FL) (FM) (FN) (FO) (FP) (FQ) (FR) (FS) (FT) (FU) (FV) (FW) (FX) (FY) (FZ) (GA) (GB) (GC) (GD) (GE) (GF) (GG) (GH) (GI) (GJ) (GK) (GL) (GM) (GN) (GO) (GP) (GQ) (GR) (GS) (GT) (GU) (GV) (GW) (GX) (GY) (GZ) (HA) (HB) (HC) (HD) (HE) (HF) (HG) (HH) (HI) (HJ) (HK) (HL) (HM) (HN) (HO) (HP) (HQ) (HR) (HS) (HT) (HU) (HV) (HW) (HX) (HY) (HZ) (IA) (IB) (IC) (ID) (IE) (IF) (IG) (IH) (II) (IJ) (IK) (IL) (IM) (IN) (IO) (IP) (IQ) (IR) (IS) (IT) (IU) (IV) (IW) (IX) (IY) (IZ) (JA) (JB) (JC) (JD) (JE) (JF) (JG) (JH) (JI) (JJ) (JK) (JL) (JM) (JN) (JO) (JP) (JQ) (JR) (JS) (JT) (JU) (JV) (JW) (JX) (JY) (JZ) (KA) (KB) (KC) (KD) (KE) (KF) (KG) (KH) (KI) (KJ) (KL) (KM) (KN) (KO) (KP) (KQ) (KR) (KS) (KT) (KU) (KV) (KW) (KX) (KY) (KZ) (LA) (LB) (LC) (LD) (LE) (LF) (LG) (LH) (LI) (LJ) (LK) (LM) (LN) (LO) (LP) (LQ) (LR) (LS) (LT) (LU) (LV) (LW) (LX) (LY) (LZ) (MA) (MB) (MC) (MD) (ME) (MF) (MG) (MH) (MI) (MJ) (MK) (ML) (MN) (MO) (MP) (MQ) (MR) (MS) (MT) (MU) (MV) (MW) (MX) (MY) (MZ) (NA) (NB) (NC) (ND) (NE) (NF) (NG) (NH) (NI) (NJ) (NK) (NL) (NM) (NO) (NP) (NQ) (NR) (NS) (NT) (NU) (NV) (NW) (NX) (NY) (NZ) (OA) (OB) (OC) (OD) (OE) (OF) (OG) (OH) (OI) (OJ) (OK) (OL) (OM) (ON) (OO) (OP) (OQ) (OR) (OS) (OT) (OU) (OV) (OW) (OX) (OY) (OZ) (PA) (PB) (PC) (PD) (PE) (PF) (PG) (PH) (PI) (PJ) (PK) (PL) (PM) (PN) (PO) (PP) (PQ) (PR) (PS) (PT) (PU) (PV) (PW) (PX) (PY) (PZ) (QA) (QB) (QC) (QD) (QE) (QF) (QG) (QH) (QI) (QJ) (QK) (QL) (QM) (QN) (QO) (QP) (QQ) (QR) (QS) (QT) (QU) (QV) (QW) (
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FOOTBALL: MINISTER FOR SPORT STANDS BY HIS RECORD AS A SUPPORTER

Moynihan ready to face his critics from the terraces

Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport and Charities, will face his critics from the terraces of a football stadium on December 6.

Moynihan will reveal his views on the Football Spectators' Bill on December 6. He will also reveal his views on the Football Spectators' Bill on December 6.

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Ellis vows to fight FA for Taylor

By Chris Moore

Doug Ellis, the chairman of Aston Villa, was adamant last night that the Football Association should face a fight to secure the services of Graham Taylor.

Ellis was at the FA Council meeting this week when it was decided to reappoint the England manager.

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Mee and his shadow: the Oxford man strikes up a harmonious partnership with Lippard

HOCKEY

Oxford's spirited challenge to leaders

By Sydney Friskin

Blackheath..... 4
Oxford University..... 3

Blackheath regained the leadership of the Pizza Express London League after a grim struggle at the Meridian Sports Centre, Chiswick, yesterday.

The fortunes of this extraordinary match changed dramatically in the fifth minute of the second half when Oxford were leading 2-1.

First, Bambury was sent off with a yellow temporary suspension card for excessive play, followed by an improper tackle. Simmon's offence was somewhat unintentional but Bambury, who had been shown a green warning card in the first half, should have known better than to question an umpire's decision.

Blackheath, who probably did not expect such a spirited challenge from Oxford, profited in the end by their willingness to keep going. It was slightly against the run of play that Mee put Oxford ahead in the 28th minute with a strong hit from their second short corner.

The minutes later Blackheath equalized from their first short corner, which was well struck by Haines. But Haines himself conceded another short corner to Oxford and Barry scored with a direct hit. Oxford, however, had a narrow escape when the ball clipped the top of the bar.

The dismissal of Bambury was something that Oxford could ill afford. Oxford were under severe pressure from the time the second half began. While he was off Lippard scored for Blackheath from a long corner, and although Shafique rescued Oxford when Bambury departed, they could not stop Patel from putting Blackheath 3-2 ahead.

Barry increased the home side's lead with a brilliant goal all on his own. With five minutes to go, however, Oxford hit back, Barry converting a short corner.

They thought they had saved the day from another short corner two minutes before the end but Shafique, who had hit the ball into goal, was ruled offside.

Oxford, coached by Imtiaz Sheikh, a former England international, who has played for Southgate and Slough, are playing attractive hockey and their prospects for the annual match against Cambridge in February look rosy.

BLACKHEATH: B Cooper, B Reithing, R Pender, R Chads, S Haines, P Lippard, M Haines, R Oxford, A Colclough, K Beard, D Patel, M Patel.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: C. White, S. Haines, R. Chads, S. Haines, P. Lippard, M. Haines, R. Oxford, A. Colclough, K. Beard, D. Patel, M. Patel.

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Kankkunen's trap gives him lead on day of Wacky Races

By Andrew Longmore

There were strange goings-on during the penultimate day of the Lombard RAC rally.

Cows refused to clear a stage, a driver called Gregor de Maréville - nicknamed Greg the Marvellous - matched time with the best of them driving a car almost straight from the showroom, and Juha Kankkunen and Hannu Mikkola, the overnight leaders, played a Finnish version of hide-and-seek. No wonder one competitor described it as "like Wacky Races".

At the end of a day of adventure in Scotland and the north-east, the Toyota of Kankkunen was a slender 66 seconds ahead of Mikkola's Mazda, with Allen's Lancia three-and-a-half minutes behind. The last vestige of a British challenge had disappeared when Malcolm Wilson retired early with suspension problems, leaving Mark Lovell as the top British driver in 21st place.

A lethal combination of ice and snow, which threatened to defeat the efforts of the men from Michelin, Pirelli and Dunlop, was the main cause of the problems.

Several crews chose specialist narrow tyres, fine for snow, but hopeless for ice; others opted for soft compound tyres, fine for gravel, reasonable for ice, hopeless for snow. All

prayed for studded tyres, which are not allowed on this rally because of the damage they do to forest roads.

After being just 13th fastest through the 37th stage, Kankkunen described his tyres as useless. He also adopted a tactical approach, dropping back on the road sections to let Mikkola reach the next stage first and play the snowplough.

As each competitor is allowed 20 minutes spare time during a day, it is perfectly legal to drop

back deliberately, using up time, and to go through a stage later than your allotted time. It is the rallying version of the offside trap - perfectly legal, often used, but not quite the done thing.

It worked a treat. Mikkola went into the Kielder Forest with a lead of 10 seconds and re-emerged three stages later with a deficit of a minute-and-a-half. "I made a wrong tyre choice," he said. "The snow is wet and it is terrible to be the first car

for a place in the semi-finals in pursuit of his fifth successive UK title.

Doug Mountjoy, of Wales, the UK winner 10 years ago, but now ranked 24th, has improved dramatically this season but said before his quarter-final with John Virgo, another former winner (in 1979) and ranked fifth in the year, that he feared he had lost his killer instinct.

There was no sign of it, however, as he swept to a 5-1 lead, Virgo's only early success coming when he flaked a frame bar in the second.

Mountjoy blossomed with breaks of 69 and 55 in frame four and six in the next.

RESULTS: Final round (Thursday) 9-10. Round 1: 1. Kankkunen (Toyota) 2. Mikkola (Mazda) 3. Allen (Lancia) 4. Wilson (Lancia) 5. Lovell (Lancia) 6. Virgo (Lancia) 7. Mountjoy (Lancia) 8. Munn (Lancia) 9. Munn (Lancia) 10. Munn (Lancia) 11. Munn (Lancia) 12. Munn (Lancia) 13. Munn (Lancia) 14. Munn (Lancia) 15. Munn (Lancia) 16. Munn (Lancia) 17. Munn (Lancia) 18. Munn (Lancia) 19. Munn (Lancia) 20. Munn (Lancia) 21. Munn (Lancia) 22. Munn (Lancia) 23. Munn (Lancia) 24. Munn (Lancia) 25. Munn (Lancia) 26. Munn (Lancia) 27. Munn (Lancia) 28. Munn (Lancia) 29. Munn (Lancia) 30. Munn (Lancia) 31. Munn (Lancia) 32. Munn (Lancia) 33. Munn (Lancia) 34. Munn (Lancia) 35. Munn (Lancia) 36. Munn (Lancia) 37. Munn (Lancia) 38. Munn (Lancia) 39. Munn (Lancia) 40. Munn (Lancia) 41. Munn (Lancia) 42. Munn (Lancia) 43. Munn (Lancia) 44. Munn (Lancia) 45. Munn (Lancia) 46. Munn (Lancia) 47. Munn (Lancia) 48. Munn (Lancia) 49. Munn (Lancia) 50. Munn (Lancia) 51. Munn (Lancia) 52. Munn (Lancia) 53. 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Rangers given lift by £6m takeover



Murray: turned down by Ayr

By Kerry Gill
and Roddy Forsyth

Rangers Football Club is to change hands for £6 million after agreement was reached yesterday for David Murray, a Scottish businessman, to acquire a controlling interest from Lawrence Marshall.

Graeme Souness, the manager of the Glasgow club, will join the board and, Murray said, will remain in charge of the team. Souness is to buy 10 per cent of the shares from Marshall for £600,000.

Marshall, who lives in the United States, sold his 69.65 per cent holding to Murray's company for £6,013,825. Marshall said that, living 6,000 miles away, he was too distant to retain proper control of the club. If other smaller shareholders

follow suit, the price could rise to about £8 million.

Murray said that money would be made available to buy players. Rangers have been linked with Gary Lineker, the England international forward, who would be the latest in a long line of English players to join the club.

Murray, the owner of Murray International Holdings, said: "I am glad a Scottish institution has stayed in Scottish hands. This is the business deal of the year as far as I am concerned. I never believed Rangers would become available to me."

Murray and Souness have been discussing the move for some months. Souness said: "I have been friendly with David Murray since I came back to Scotland. I don't think the

club could go to a better man. It couldn't be better for the club or for the fans."

The club made a loss last year of £1,071,836, although it made a trading profit of £1,489,387 to May 31 this year. The trading profit was offset by heavy expenses, incurred largely in transfer fees.

"This offer from Mr Murray arose and I had to do a lot of thinking about it," Marshall said. "The important issue is that he was the right man in the right place at the right time. I am delighted that Mr Murray is Scottish and Scottish based and that he is a genuine Rangers supporter."

Murray twice attempted to take over Ayr United this year, but he was told the club was not for sale at any price. "I was born and brought up

in Ayr, but I have always had feelings for Rangers," he said. "My father used to take me to big matches at Ibrox when I was a boy."

David Holmes, appointed chairman by Marshall, will remain in office but Murray will take a close interest in the day-to-day running of the club. Holmes, who brought Souness to Ibrox in 1986, is also chief executive.

He said: "It's a pretty sad day for me in one way. We have lifted Rangers on to a plateau in the three years since I have been here. Another lift is needed right now. New ideas will be brought in. The important thing is that Rangers are recognized as the top football club in Britain and, hopefully, Europe."

team this season, although an aggravated calf injury, for which he is receiving treatment, has placed his playing career in doubt.

Murray, a former rugby union player who lost both legs in a car accident, has built up his business empire over the past 15 years and he employs 900 people. The deal is his biggest sporting venture.

Parsons Penney and Co have been appointed financial advisers to the club and their advice to shareholders is to take no action at the moment, but to await the recommendation of the board.

Murray's company is expected to achieve turnover in the financial year to January 31, 1989, in excess of £90 million, and a pre-tax profit of about £6 million.



Souness: joining the board

END COLUMN

Changes to old order overdue

By Emily Jones

(A former director of the Sports Council)

A year ago the Minister for Sport, Colin Moynihan, wrote an open letter to the chairman of the Sports Council, John Smith, to initiate a debate on a number of basic questions. Moynihan said he "wanted to take a new look at the direction of our sports policies and mechanisms for achieving them."

A year later the only ostensible action appears to be the reduction of the council's membership to less than half. It would seem that the mountain has gone into labour and produced a mouse.

The Sports Council, established by Royal Charter, is by and large the arbiter of any change in its constitution and powers. The Minister appoints its chairman and members and controls its funding from the Department of the Environment. These apart, his only power in theory is to reduce its numbers.

Moynihan is, however, sufficiently astute to realize that if he wanted to abolish the council, or seriously erode its powers, he could appoint members who would bend to his will. We can only conclude, therefore, that he has opted for the status quo.

Relations at arm's length

If that assumption is correct, it begs the question: why? The council was established in controversial circumstances in 1971 and took over the assets and responsibilities of the CCPR, except its function as the elected voice of sport. The system which evolved, although cumbersome, was workable but those responsible for making it work (including me when I was director in 1978-83) have to spend precious time combating criticism, much of it from influential sources, and let's face it, some of it convincing.

The criticism continues and it is not going to disappear. Its volume and quality is such that I believe the time has come for major changes.

I am convinced we need a Sports Council to maintain the arm's-length relation between government and sport. I never again want to see representatives of sport going cap in hand to a government department to have their needs assessed by a civil servant, who is by nature a generalist, here today, gone tomorrow.

The only function of my new council would be to assess, bid for and disburse grant-in-aid. This is not a panacea for all sport's financial ills. It could still be told, as it was by the minister at the CCPR's Bournemouth conference earlier this month, that the council should not be regarded as a social services arm.

So who then would take the responsibility for the assets and functions stripped from the CCPR in 1971? I am certainly not so naive as to suggest that they could be dumped in the lap of the present CCPR.

Financial support must be assured

The solution might, however, lie in a major realignment within voluntary sport. In the last year, a proposition was considered by the CCPR and the British Olympic Association to set up a super-federal body similar to the Belgian and French systems. There were vested interests and prejudices and, not surprisingly, it came to nothing.

The minister, of course, has no locus in this area but has influence and can dispense largesse. Would the pill be swallowed if the sugar-coating was the handing over of wide-ranging responsibilities from the Sports Council to this body?

The minister would need to be convinced that the new organization was on a sound footing and he would have to find an assurance of reasonable financial support from government (through the Sports Council, which may even be amenable to these changes).

At the same time he might even consider streamlining within his own domain. If a Sports Council (of whatever kind) is justified, the vastly expensive sport and recreation division in the DoE must be surplus to requirements. Why keep a dog and bark yourself?

The implementation of these proposals would, in my opinion, meet with the approval of the majority of sports administrators in this country and would rationalize a system which is becoming increasingly difficult to operate.

Live FA Cup ties will highlight new TV late show

By Peter Ball

FA Cup ties, including a semi-final for the first time, will be shown live on Saturday night television next season, it was announced at the signing of a five-year exclusive contract worth £30 million between the FA and the BBC and British Satellite Broadcasting (BSB) yesterday.

The agreement gives the BBC and BSB exclusive rights to all FA Cup ties except the final, the FA Charity Shield and all England matches, including those in the qualifying rounds of the World Cup and European Championship.

From next season BSB, which starts transmitting in September, will screen a live match from each round up to and including the sixth round on Saturday evenings, with live midweek replays when there are any. The BBC, just as this season, will screen edited highlights on Saturday evening and a live match from the third, fourth, fifth and sixth rounds on Sundays for its £12 million contribution to the contract.

There are also plans for a semi-final to be shown live, BSB having the right to screen prestige matches on its subscription channel. "Pay per view will become an integral part of sport's broadcasting and our contract with BSB will allow us to introduce this immediately," Ted Croker, the secretary of the Foot-

ball Association, said yesterday.

In the long term this is likely to be the fate of the FA Cup Final, which is one of the six national events compulsorily available to every national broadcaster. The BBC has access to this final as part of its contract, but Croker reiterated the FA's opposition to the listed events.

The potentially most contentious part of the contract, however, gives the two companies "exclusive access to the best of foreign football."

Such a threat understandably provoked an angry reaction from rival broadcasters. "It's a joke," John Bromley, ITV's head of sports, said. "If the BBC or BSB tried to prevent us showing European football, it would be illegal and we would be straight into court."

Bromley's position was echoed by George Black. "The FA has no interest in the rights of matches of any foreign league, so they can't grant the rights. The only way they could prevent us showing games would be under Statute 37B of the UEFA regulations, and if BSB attempted to use that against us it would be illegal and we would take it to court."

The FA used these powers two years ago to prevent ITV showing Barcelona against Real Madrid. At the time ITV accepted the decision without challenging it in court, in spite of legal advice in its favour. It did so on the grounds that football and broadcasting were part of the same club. That club no longer exists. The stakes are much higher and a court case, probably involving UEFA, seems inevitable, sooner or later, should the FA try to use those powers.

On Tuesday Anderson was similarly charged in connection with disclosures in his recently published autobiography.

Player charged again

Viv Anderson, the Manchester United defender, was yesterday charged with bringing the game into disrepute for the second time in 24 hours (Ian Ross writes).

Anderson, an England international, is charged in connection with an alleged incident

with John Fashanu, the Wimbledon forward, at the end of a recent Littlewoods Cup tie at Plough Lane.

On Tuesday Anderson was similarly charged in connection with disclosures in his recently published autobiography.

Mikkola snow-ploughs into trouble



Cold comfort: Hannu Mikkola, of Finland, survived the penultimate day of the Lombard RAC rally, but his lead did not as he fell foul of snow and ice in the North yesterday. Report: page 43

Tyson-Bruno postponed again

By Srikanth Sen
Boxing Correspondent

For the sake of the statistics so beloved of sports journalists, the Bruno-Tyson bout has been called off for a fifth time. Reports that the world champion was "ready, able and willing" to get on with the bout. Astaire said: "It's just another date to be pencilled in. I don't take it as being any more definite than when I was told January 14 was on."

Weitzman said: "It all depends on the Tyson-Cayton conflict." There are so many conflicts in Tyson's life at the moment, not least the divorce problems with his wife, Robin, that it is

anyone's guess what will surface next to dash Bruno's hopes.

Since Tyson is very close to Don King, one of America's leading promoters, and is reported to be thinking of moving his training camp from the Catskills to King's outfit outside Cleveland, Ohio, much could depend on what advice King gives the champion.

In view of the ever-changing stories coming from America, it might be best for the moment to heed the words of the old song: "Do nothing 'til you hear from me!" and to keep a spoonful of salt handy until the champion or King speaks.

It is thought that it is not so much Tyson's two stones of excess weight, through inactivity, that is holding up matters as King's insistence on having promotion rights on Tyson's contests for four years.

Even John Giovenco, president of the Las Vegas Hilton where King holds his shows, believed that a date could not be fixed until dispute between King and Cayton on the promoter's role in Tyson's boxing future is settled.

Cayton is believed to be reluctant to give King more than four contests, which, at Tyson's rate of defences, is little more than a year.

Gold heads drugs inquiry

The British Olympic Association (BOA) has set up a three-man committee to investigate the use and misuse of drugs. Sir Arthur Gold, the BOA chairman, was put in charge of the inquiry team, whose first task will be to "thoroughly examine Great Britain's drug problem in Seoul."

Gold's colleagues are Neil Townshend, a doctor and recent winter Olympic Games competitor, and Roy Evans, a past president of the Inter-

national Table Tennis Federation.

The disqualification in Seoul of Kerrith Brown, the judo player, and the accusations against Linford Christie, the silver medal-winning sprinter, has put the drug problem high on the BOA's agenda.

Now Gold's committee has been given until the end of January to prepare a report which will be put before an International Olympic Com-

mittee (IOC) drugs commission in February.

On a wider front, the inquiry will seek to provide guidelines to prevent the same kind of things happening again," a BOA spokeswoman said.

"We want to educate everyone on the topic of drug use," she said. "The committee will be able to call on anyone it likes and, because of its broad nature, the work will take longer to complete."

Ambitious plans for Edgbaston

By Chris Moore

Warwickshire yesterday announced plans to give their Edgbaston headquarters a £4 million facelift, designed to make it one of the world's finest Test match grounds.

If the scheme is approved by the membership, it is intended to form the club into a limited company with every member being offered the opportunity of purchasing a share.

A special meeting of the county's 5,500 members will be called in the spring to consider the principal proposal, for the erection of a new pavilion.

"Lord's is Lord's and will always remain the home of cricket. But our aim is to make Edgbaston the next best on the list," Bob Evans, the Warwickshire chairman, said. "The ultimate objective must be that Edgbaston becomes an automatic venue on the Test match rota."

Evans labelled the present pavilion "a rabbit warren, old and getting older, and in need of an increasing amount of maintenance."

He said: "We would hope that if the plans are passed by the membership, we could start building the new pavilion within three or four years. But the important issue is to reassure the members that no one individual, nor any group, will be able to gain overall control of the club if we become a limited company."

That is why no member will be allowed to hold more than one share, not even the chairman. There will be no block holdings, and that way the club will remain in the hands of the membership.

"Incorporation is the modern route by which one can issue debentures and raise the

sort of money we are talking about. But at the end of the day it will be up to the membership which way we go."

Warwickshire are in the process of building eight hospitality boxes for next season, and are also dismantling one of the ground's principal landmarks - the main scoreboard - which is to be relocated behind a new north stand, which will increase the seating capacity by about 2,000.

Warwickshire have re-appointed Andy Lloyd as their captain for next season. He took over from Norman Gifford this year and steered the county to sixth place in the championship - their highest position for five years.

Northamptonshire have a new sponsorship agreement, with the brewers Mitchells and Butlers, believed to be worth more than £100,000 over the first three years. It is the most lucrative sponsorship contract in the club's history.

"We are very pleased to be involved with M and B, who are looking to expand their business in our area," Steve Coverdale, the Northamptonshire secretary-manager, said. "We don't want to reveal exactly how much money is involved but it will be a big boost to the whole club and cricket in the county generally."

The brewers, who already have sponsorship agreements with Warwickshire and Derbyshire, replace Carlsberg, Northamptonshire's main sponsors for the past four years.

Death of writer

Pat Besford, the swimming writer for the *Daily Telegraph* for 25 years, died after a short illness in a London hospital yesterday. She was 69.

After a first-class swimming career, she attended every Olympic Games since 1936, except Melbourne, and was this year the first British recipient of the International Olympic Committee's award to a journalist who had done most to promote the Olympic movement. Among her many posts was presidency of the Swimming Commission of the International Association of the Sporting Press (AISP). A thanksgiving service will be held at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, at noon on November 29.

A showdown

Rawalpindi (AFP) - Jahangir Khan and Jansher Khan, of Pakistan, ranked first and second in the world, reached the final of the President's Gold Cup squash rackets tournament here yesterday after beating Rodney Martin and Chris Dittmar, the Australia duo. Results, page 43

Peugeot enter

Paris (AFP) - Peugeot, an acknowledged force in motor rallying, will challenge the dominance of Jaguar and Mercedes for the world sports car championship in 1990.

Roblin stays

Paul Roblin keeps his place for London Welsh for their Courage rugby union second division match at Headingley on Saturday after replacing Tony Griffiths, the stand-off, during last week's 29-10 victory over London Scottish.

In solid form

Willis Walker, the oldest living county championship cricketer, will celebrate his 90th birthday today. Walker, a batsman for Nottinghamshire in the 1920s and 1930s, also kept goal for South Shields when they were in the Football League third division (North). He now lives in Keighley, Yorkshire.

Weight load

Budapest (AP) - The Hungarian weightlifting federation has banned Kalman Csengeri and Andor Szanyi, who failed drug tests at the Olympic Games in Seoul, from competing in national events for a year.

Skiing switch

Park City, Utah (AP) - Phil and Steve Mahre, the American men who established formidable reputations in the skiing World Cup, face an uncertain future when they switch to the professional circuit here this weekend.

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